





## news

## PM to hold 'fireside chats' with activists

JOHN RENTON  
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is to hold a "question-and-answer" session at Conservative conference in Bournemouth next month, in order to present him as relaxed and confident in unscripted debate with party activists.

The session was to have been unveiled as a surprise addition to the published agenda on the Wednesday of the conference.

and will take place as well as John Major's set-piece speech as party leader on Friday.

Trying out a format which both main-party leaders are likely to use during the general election campaign, Mr Major will take questions from representatives while sitting on a dais in front of the stage in the conference hall.

The session will close with a five- or 10-minute "fireside chat" in which Mr Major will

talk to the audience in a conversational way without notes.

The format is also scheduled to be used by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, instead of his traditional ministerial speech on Tuesday

and by Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, on Wednesday morning.

Dr Mawhinney is listed on the agenda as leading a debate on "Our Nation's Future", the consultation exercise launched

by the Prime Minister among grassroots Tories. But this could be the slot that Tory managers intend to use for Mr Major's innovative session.

The question-and-answer format was first tried at the Tories' spring mini-conference, Central Council, in Harrogate, and was judged a success by party managers.

Tory Central Office believes that the Prime Minister comes across best when he is speaking

directly and informally to people, rather than delivering a written address. At the last two conferences, Mr Major has spoken from notes, without the words scrolling up on a glass teleprompter in front of him, and in a fairly low-key style.

But during the last election his performances on a bar stool on a special set "in the round" received mixed reviews, and late in the campaign there was a sharp change in strategy as Mr

Major took to his soapbox for a less managed, governmental feel.

Labour managers have also been looking at ways of presenting the Labour leader Tony Blair, both at their conference next week, and during the election campaign. They are likely to be based on the success of Mr Blair's face-to-face, shirt-sleeves "in the round" sessions with party members and business leaders.

## Major's attempt at peace collapses

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister's attempt to halt attacks on the Chancellor collapsed yesterday as one of his closest supporters warned that the Euro-sceptic right wing were already fighting the battle for the leadership.

Robert Hughes, a member of the Prime Minister's leadership election campaign team, said the left-right split over Europe which had undermined Kenneth Clarke's authority had become part of the battle for the succession after the election.

Mr Hughes, Tory MP for Harrow, said on BBC radio: "Too many people on both sides of this argument [Europe] aren't concentrating on this; they are not concentrating on the election; they are simply positioning themselves for what is going to happen after the election, win or lose."

The admission that the campaigning had already begun for John Major's leadership crown highlighted the feeling by many Tory MPs that the divisions over Europe are too deep to cover up before the election.

It came as John Redwood, a former challenger for the Tory leadership, openly contradicted Mr Major by insisting that Mr Clarke had stepped out of line by saying it would be "pathetic" not to join the first wave of countries into a single currency.

Tearing open the careful patching operation by Downing Street, Mr Redwood said the Government must clarify the situation.

Mr Hughes, too many are positioning for after election

"He recognised he did step out of line and that is why he had this lift," Mr Redwood said on BBC radio. "This ought to be sorted out in private and then the Cabinet should sign up to a line they are happy with."

"We have seen this week the Chancellor is not happy with the collective line of keeping all the options open."

The mainstream group of Tory MPs yesterday launched a fightback against the right, led by Mr Redwood, with a day's conference in camera to thrash out its strategy for the election.

The former Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, made a rallying call to the left of the Conservative Party to speak up for One Nation principles before the general election, to stop a drift to the right.

Mr Hurd said: "The Prime Minister and his colleagues have been true to these principles. It is not enough to give them silent support at a time when the river is deep and turbulent and we stand on the edge of an election."

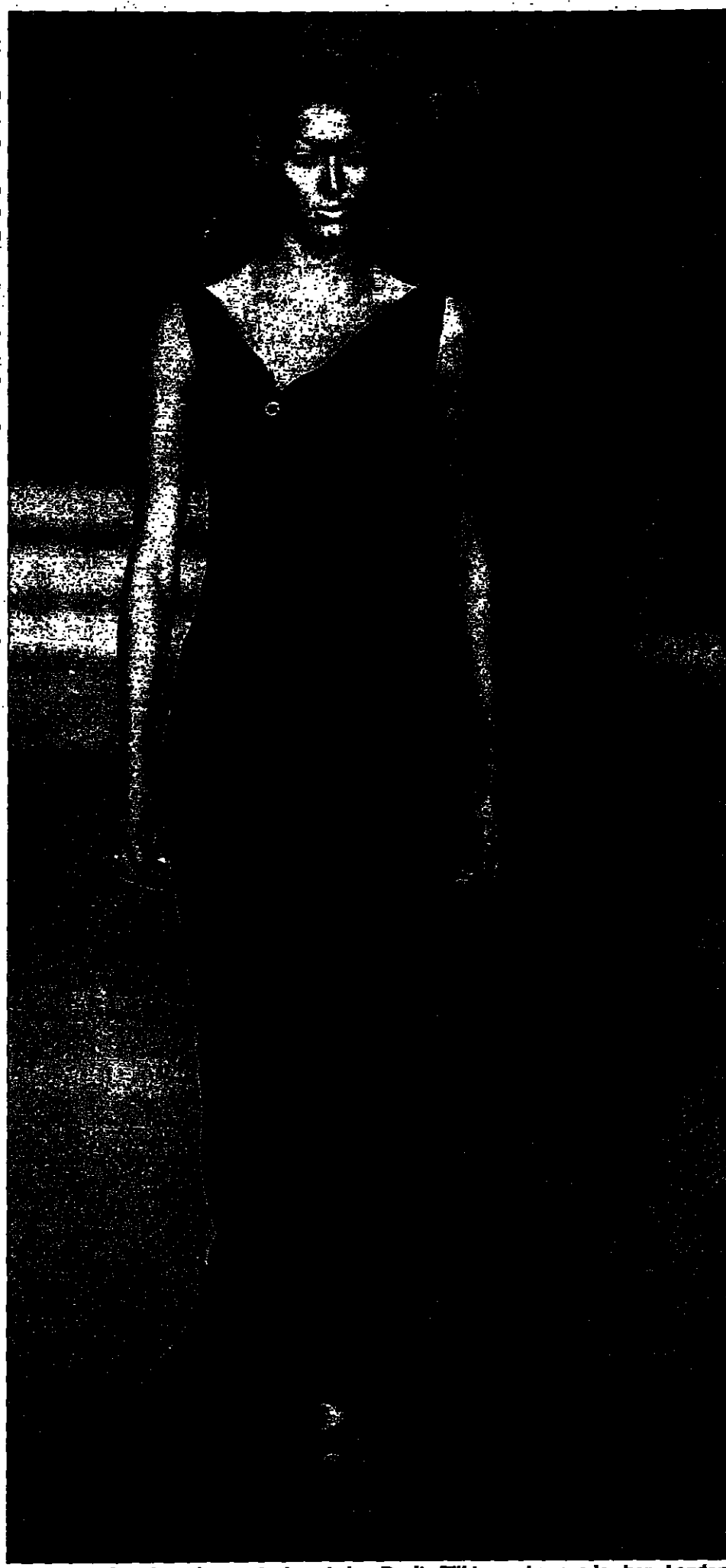
The former Foreign Secretary, who signed the pro-European grandees' letter to *The Independent* last week, said the Cabinet was clearly right in its decision to keep open the option on joining a single currency, although he added: "I have never been an advocate of a single currency."

A former minister, David Howell, warned the conference that "sensible, middle-way, Conservative thinking on Europe" was in danger of being drowned out by the Euro-sceptics.

The former Tory Chief Whip, Tim Renton, hit out at Mr Redwood's followers: "It is a great pity the sceptics led by John Redwood are so ready to jump on the bandwagon and try and cause dissension on the Europe issue."

Another former minister, David Hunt, was dismissive of the Euro-sceptics' strength. "We have always had a small number of Conservative MPs who have disagreed vehemently with our policies on Europe. Nothing has changed since the early Seventies. They have always been there."

## London Fashion Week: Ronit Zilkha weighs in for the working woman



In control: Evening dress designed by Ronit Zilkha, who made her London Fashion Week debut at the Victoria and Albert Museum yesterday. Photograph: Ben Elwes

## Made to measure for the real world

MELANIE RICKEY

London Fashion Week opened yesterday morning with a show by Ronit Zilkha, a new name to the catwalks, on the day that Vivienne Westwood announced her return to the London catwalks next spring.

Zilkha is one of more than 100 designers from across Britain who will be displaying their spring/summer '97 collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum, west London, over the next four days.

Also joining in the capital's fashion parade is Donna Karan, who is arriving in London to open her new store, and the supermodels Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell and Elle Macpherson, in town yesterday to promote their Fashion Café which opens tomorrow.

Zilkha, a diminutive 29-year-old originally from Israel, is a relative unknown in the fashion world, but has successfully run her three London shops (two more open today) for five years this October. Her customers include Esther Rantzen, Cherie Booth and Maureen Lipman.

Zilkha's Spring-Summer 1997 show began with the fanfare "Welcome to the real world", and followed through with the kind of clothes working women can wear.

The show presented a comprehensive wardrobe for women who work, play, and go to evening functions, but also like to look feminine and in control. The show moved from turquoise bikinis through to citrus-coloured skirt suits that were structured to fit any shape. The clothes looked aimed at the 30-to-40 age group in the first part of the show, but the surprise came towards the end, when sleek, single-breasted black suits were teamed with cream necks with graphic but simple black stripes.

There were also A-line skirts, boaty floral dresses, striped trousers, and a selection of black jersey, and jet-beaded bias-cut evening wear, that would do any siren justice.

After the show, Zilkha was happy. "I am really proud to have been able to open not just London Fashion Week, but also to be the very first show of the whole season."

Later in the day Antonio Berardi held his third catwalk show at the Royal Opera House a mix of feisty glamour and immaculate tailoring, that received a fantastic reception.

## significant shorts

## PowerGen pulls plug on 'filthy fuel'

PowerGen yesterday announced that its *last* power station near Chester, where it has been burning oil, will close next spring.

The decision delighted Friends of the Earth and effectively ends PowerGen's plans to use the fuel from Venezuela in Britain. But Britain's biggest generating company, National Power, is still pursuing plans to burn the fuel at its Pembroke station in west Wales.

Orimulsion - a heavy mixture of oil and water - contains high levels of toxic heavy metals and sulphur, and environmentalists describe it as "the world's filthiest fuel". *Nicholas Schoon*

## Frozen heart success boost for cryogenics

Cryogenic scientists have succeeded in bringing a deep-frozen heart from a rat back to life, according to a report in *New Scientist* magazine today.

The achievement by researchers from the University of Pretoria in South Africa is seen as a significant step towards the dream of storing transplant organs in deep freeze. Previous attempts have been frustrated by the fact that water expands when it freezes, rupturing cell membranes.

The researchers solved the problem with a "cryoprotectant" liquid which is non-toxic and does not damage cells when it freezes. They plan to transplant a defrosted pig's heart into a live animal by the end of the year.

## Boys accused over attack

Three 16-year-olds will appear before Westminster Youth Court today charged with robbery, rape, and the attempted murder of a 32-year-old Australian woman who was attacked and thrown into a canal in King's Cross, north London, last Saturday. A further five teenagers were being questioned by police.

## Ethnic groups losing out on cancer care

Members of ethnic minorities who develop cancer are failing to get the care they need because too many doctors believe it is a "white" disease, the Cancer Research Campaign said yesterday.

A report commissioned by the Department of Health and the CRC suggests that the problem of cancer in ethnic minorities is not properly recognised by healthcare workers or by the communities themselves. There is a lower uptake of screening services and later reporting of cancer which may lead to lower survival rates than among the majority of the population. Baroness Cumberlege, Health Minister, said the report, in the *British Journal of Cancer*, set a new agenda for the NHS to focus on. *Liz Hunt*

## Lib-Dems' ad agency folds

The advertising agency helping the Liberal Democrats plan their election campaign has gone into voluntary liquidation, it was revealed yesterday. Alison Holmes, the party's election planning manager, said she was sorry to hear Knight Leach Delaney had gone under but did not think it would be "too much of a problem".

## Ordeal looms as Duchess blocks book

The Duchess of York faces the prospect of a court interregno over her private life despite securing a renewal yesterday of the injunction blocking publication of a book about her relationship with John Bryan.

She must also find £500,000 as security for any damages that might be won by the author Dr Allan Starkie, a former friend, and publishers Michael O'Mara Books if the hearing, which starts on 7 October, goes against her. Dr Starkie, a former business partner of 41-year-old Mr Bryan, signed a deal last month to publish *Fergie: Her Secret Life*, a reportedly "explosive account" of her friendship with the Texan businessman. Mr O'Mara, who also published *Diana: Her True Story*, said the case would no doubt be "extremely amusing for everybody".

## Doctors slump in pay league

Doctors need a 53 per cent pay rise to regain the place they held in the earnings league 16 years ago, the British Medical Association said in a submission yesterday to the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body which advises the Government on pay.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD	
Austria	£34.00
Belgium	£38.00
Canada	£40.00
Czech Rep.	£42.00
Denmark	£44.00
France	£46.00
Germany	£48.00
Greece	£50.00
Ireland	£52.00
Italy	£54.00
Japan	£56.00
Netherlands	£58.00
Norway	£60.00
Poland	£62.00
Portugal	£64.00
Spain	£66.00
Sweden	£68.00
Switzerland	£70.00
USA	£72.00
West Germany	£74.00
Yugoslavia	£76.00

## Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 11. Heads you win

Adam who works at Ruddles Brewery in Retland decided to take a holiday in the Highlands of Scotland to smell the heather rather than the hops for a change.

He loved the scenery but he had a little trouble with the "heavy" preferring the familiar taste of Ruddles County which is so accessible in most of Britain but somewhat harder to find in the mountains of Scotland.

After 10 days even the beauty of the scenery began to pall and the memory of his beloved Ruddles (so near yet so far away) started to get to him.

To take his mind off things and for want of something better to do he decided to have his hair cut.

He went in to the only barber shop for miles around to find the two resident barbers. Adam noticed immediately that the one

called Hamish had an appealing haircut, while the other who was known as "Bravehead" had a nightmarish mop of hair.

Being a shrewd Scotsman for all his quiet ways, Adam knew his choice of barber was critical.

However he chose correctly and left with a smart trim.

Who did Adam choose to cut his hair and why?



## SNP call to exclude Scots beef from ban

JAMES CUSICK

Europe should be encouraged to separate the Scottish beef industry from the British export ban with an appeal to Brussels by an all-party delegation, the Scottish National Party conference heard yesterday.

Speaking on the opening day of the conference in Inverness, Dr Allan Macartney, the MEP for north-east Scotland, urged the Secretary of State for Scotland Michael Forsyth to "take politics out of the BSE crisis".

Dr Macartney said Mr Forsyth's recent comment that he "intended to fight for Scottish beef" would not have been made without Cabinet approval.

The incidence of BSE - "mad cow disease" - in the Scottish beef herd is significantly lower than the UK figure. In April, when the nationalists first suggested that a cull could be zoned to account for Scotland's lower infection rate, the idea was dismissed by the Government.

Dr Macartney said yesterday that he had been urged by senior Conservative MPs to renege the idea. "With Mr Forsyth having done nothing in the past six months but bad mouth Europe and insist there

was no Scottish solution to the crisis, Mr Forsyth on his own is hardly in a credible position to argue the case for Scottish beef in Europe."

Instead, the SNP had proposed that an all-party delegation should urgently with the EU agricultural commissioner, Franz Fischler. When the idea of a zoned approach was suggested to Brussels in April, Mr Fischler appeared to make no firm objection. However, he indicated no action could be taken unless there was a direct suggestion from the UK government.

It seemed unlikely Mr Forsyth would join such an all-party trip direct odds with his own Cabinet colleagues. However, Dr Macartney said that Mr Forsyth - regarded as a shrewd politician - would not have suggested a "separate" Scottish fight without at least seeking comment from No 10.

SNP officials said Mr Forsyth had been told of the idea before last week's Cabinet meeting but had so far not responded. Dr Macartney said the handling of the BSE crisis by the Government was "a political education lesson in the need for independence".

To conference applause Dr

Macartney said: "John Major is prepared to sacrifice the Scottish beef industry hoping the problem will die out in 2002. He has to now appreciate the urgency of the situation facing Scottish farmers and it is high enough is enough."

Elsewhere, the party was confident it could win more seats at the next election. In a recent poll by System Three the SNP had 29 per cent, trailing Labour on 48 but leading the Conservatives on 15. Pre-conference attacks from both Tory and Labour were anticipated, and on cue arrived yesterday.

Labour criticised a Young Scots for Independence leaflet, mainly distributed at recent pop concerts. The leaflet quoted the book and film *Thinspiration* by Irvine Welsh with the words that the English were "wankers". Labour MP Maria Ryfe said the leaflet was racist and called for its withdrawal.

The Tories' Scottish chairman, Sir Michael Hirst, attacked the SNP's recent *A Programme for Government* publication claiming that 65 crucial issues from nuclear decommissioning to the replacement of tolls on the Skye bridge - had not been properly







## news

# The Irish bombers: What sort of people are they?

DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland correspondent

The salient feature of IRA personnel involved in the republican campaigns of terrorism in Britain is that they fit into no single pattern: there is no one idealistic picture of a typical IRA bomber.

Rather, the profiles of those involved in the course of the campaigns, which have lasted in various phases since 1972 until the present day, show that they fall into a variety of disparate categories.

Some are known and highly-experienced republican activists, despatched from the north or south of Ireland; some are only teenagers, with little or no republican traces; some have lived in England for most of their lives.

What is perhaps extraordinary is the fact that so many people – almost certainly hundreds of them – have run the risk of becoming involved in terrorist activities, knowing that if caught they can expect lengthy jail sentences in unfriendly conditions in British prisons.

Yet the flow of IRA mem-

bers has been kept up for more than two decades, refining their methods and techniques since the early days of the 1970s when a gang of republicans bombed the Old Bailey in central London and then, ludicrously, attempted to board the next plane back to Belfast.

Some of those involved have been hardened IRA members, often from families with republican links stretching back beyond the present troubles. At least two of those involved in the early days had brothers killed by the British Army in Belfast.

In the early 1970s the "Balcombe Street gang" – so-called because they were eventually arrested following a siege at Balcombe Street in central London – serves as an example of a group which were apparently intent on fighting on until they were captured or killed.

Another example of what might reasonably be called a desperado was Paul Magee, an IRA man who killed a special constable in Yorkshire during a routine vehicle check in 1992. Magee appears to have con-

sidered that he had nothing left to lose, since he was on the run from police in both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

As he had escaped from prison in Belfast after being jailed for the murder of an SAS man, he knew he already faced a life sentence if apprehended.

In at least two cases in recent years the security services were clearly on to the terrorists right from the start, following them from the moment they landed in Britain.

They could have been spotted at ports or airports, or they could have been reported missing from their usual haunts by police in Belfast or Dublin.

In other cases, teenagers have been sent over to the mainland, obviously in the hope that their lack of open republican links mean they will escape the attention of the security forces.

Some involved have had criminal rather than terrorist records. One man jailed had been to prison almost a dozen times for non-republican offences which included fraud and theft, while another had a

## The Englishman – Frank Ryan

Ryan was killed in November 1991, together with Patricia Black, an IRA member, when their bomb exploded prematurely outside a theatre in St Albans, where an army band had been playing.

Born in Harlow, Essex, of Irish parents, Ryan lived in England until he was 19. In 1985, he moved to a republican area of west Belfast with his mother and almost immediately became involved in republican work, such as helping to sell Sinn Féin newspapers.

Those who knew him described him as bright, energetic and dedicated to republican work.

The fact that he had an English accent marked him out as being a potential asset to the IRA in Britain, and he was sent there as part of an active service unit, probably less than a year before his death.

Speaking at Ryan's funeral, a Sinn Féin leader said: "Frankie and Patricia are not alone: they are representatives of a generation of Ireland's youth."



who have acquired the skills of a soldier, who come forward, who are in it as so. How will the IRA defeat this invisible force?

## The lecturer – Colin O'Adhamail

O'Adhamail was arrested early in 1994, just six weeks after arriving in England to take up a post in Preston as a lecturer on social policy. In November 1994, he was jailed, aged 36, for 25 years for conspiracy to cause explosions.

He had republican leanings, having faced a charge of murdering an RUC constable in the early 1980s. The case was dropped. He was a close friend of Bobby Sands, the now-legendary IRA hunger striker.

Born in Birmingham of Northern Irish parents, O'Adhamail had moved back to Belfast at the age of four. There he gained a doctorate with a thesis on the dynamics of the guinea pig, lecturing in Belfast before applying for his job in Lancashire.

"Caught red-handed with a car containing explosives," he admitted IRA membership but mounted the defence that he intended only to store them because the IRA was involved in a peace process.

In a speech from the dock, O'Adhamail said he hoped the process "leads to a permanent end to the war



in my country and the establishment of a lasting and just settlement. After a lengthy campaign, he was transferred to serve his sentence in a Northern Ireland prison in July 1995.

## The student – Kevin Barry O'Donnell

O'Donnell was 19 when he was arrested in London in 1990 by police who found two Kalashnikov rifles in the boot of a car in which he was travelling.

A native of County Tyrone, he was at the time of his arrest taking a postgraduate course at an agricultural college in Stroud, Gloucestershire.

At the time, there was surprise when he was accused of being a terrorist. He had been a student leader at the time of his arrest, and had been involved in a campaign to force the IRA to agree to a ceasefire.

He was also part of an IRA unit which attacked an RUC station in Londonderry a month later. He was charged with possessing an RUC-7 pistol and a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver. The following year, he was part of an IRA unit which attacked an RUC station in Londonderry.



his home town of Derry after the attack. Others were shot dead in a bus. He was given a 10-year sentence.

## The southerner – Patrick Kelly

Kelly, who was described as a typical country boy in a rural community, was called for 25 years in 1993, at the age of 41. Southern Irishmen rarely surface in an active IRA role in Northern Ireland, but over the course of the troubles many have played an active role in terrorist operations in Britain.

Kelly, from County Louth, was arrested in the act of driving a lorry containing explosives into the centre of London. He was also convicted of attempted murder on the grounds that an associate had fired shots at a police officer.

Leaving school at the age of 13, Kelly worked as a general dealer for 10 years and then moved to London, where he had a successful career in the insurance industry.

He had a successful career in the insurance industry, but he was also involved in the IRA. He was arrested in 1993, at the age of 41, for driving a lorry containing explosives into the centre of London.

At the time of his trial, it was said that Kelly was "in a small way of business", frequently travelling between England and Ireland where he traded in goods including computers, kettles and umbrellas.



Some time ago, he was diagnosed as suffering from skin cancer. Following a lengthy campaign, he was transferred first to Northern Ireland and then to a prison in the Republic.

record of sex offences. More than one jailed in England has been said to have a drink problem.

In yet another pattern, first or second generation Irish people in Britain have become involved. These are probably of particular value to the IRA, since they tend to have English accents and have an intimate

knowledge of how to avoid drawing attention to themselves.

There have also been cases of the IRA recruiting people resident in England who have both an Irish background and far-left political beliefs.

Some of those who have come before the courts have been characterised as minor

characters. When a Belfast republican, Patrick Magee, was given eight life sentences for his part in the 1984 Brighton hotel bombing, in which five people were killed, another man who pleaded guilty to involvement in the attack was given only a four-year sentence. Described as shaking as he stood in the dock, he was said to be

a reluctant recruit to the IRA, having been a patient in a psychiatric hospital where he was treated for manic depression. A doctor described him as "a quiet, charming young man who often tended to be morose and withdrawn". Magee is still in jail.

This is, however, very much

an exception to the rule that those involved in the bombing campaigns have generally shown fervour and dedication to their cause.

But the range of different types involved helps illustrate why it has proved so difficult for the security services to combat the IRA's efforts to take its war to England.

## All too easy to get seduced by the dangerous romanticism of Irishness

Diarmuid O'Neill was a dreamer whose fantasies were fuelled by his upbringing, writes Jack O'Sullivan

It must be a mystery to many people why someone like Diarmuid O'Neill should have become mixed up with extreme republicanism. Here was a man born and raised in England by respectable parents – his father an engineer, his mother a bus-

Educated at a leading London Catholic school from where he went into a banking job with prospects, this was a man you might have expected to be cheering Tim Henman at Wimbledon and Atherton at Lords. Surely an Englishman through and through. How could he even call himself Irish, let alone sympathise with the IRA?

But I am not surprised by Mr O'Neill's behaviour. Like him, I was born in England of Irish parents, and I find his outlook all too easy to understand – given the dangerous romanticism attached to Irishness and the difficulty one has to reconcile that with Britishness.

And I suspect that among the eight million people of Irish descent living in Britain (a million of them Irish born) few will lack at least some insight into Diarmuid O'Neill's thinking. He is typical of so many second generation emigrants who struggle to define themselves ethnically, to draw together two notions of – as Britishness and Irishness – that for so much of history have seemed contradictory.

This is a problem that has become acute for children growing up in Britain during the past two decades, watching the violence of Northern Ireland. The strain on O'Neill to sort out this dilemma must have been immense as he grew up.

His parents Eoghan and Theresa had emigrated from Ireland, but had dreamed of a return. Such dreams can be destabilising for a child, making it more difficult to feel a sense of belonging to Britain. In Mr O'Neill's case, Ireland could have begun to be seen as a place harbouring the good things in life – holidays, friendliness, pleasure – and Britain more of a prison sentence, a place for



Irish times: A Kilburn newspaper stand provides a range of publications. Photograph: Edward Sykes

work and social alienation. As in so many emigrant families, O'Neill may have been raised amid the old tales of rebellion.

Like him, I had grandparents who lived through the Easter Rising – a grandmother who was 18 in 1916, who lived in the barracks town of Tipperary and was a staunch republican.

Doubtless, O'Neill will have been steeped in the history of atrocities committed by the British "Black and Tans". He would have heard The Dubliners singing songs such as

Kevin Barry, the tale of a young rebel being executed. He may have known that the socialist leader James Connolly had to be tied to a chair when he was executed because he had been so badly wounded.

His family would have remembered Donal O'Busachla who won a seat for Sinn Féin in the party's 1918 general election landslide victory, as British rule collapsed. Was Diarmuid, I wonder, told that Eoghan Roe O'Neill, his father's namesake, was one of the Irish military

leaders of the 17th century, securing a famous victory at Benburb in 1647?

These are the seeds that can plant in a child an unrelenting belief that his soul is Irish, whatever may have been going on in England. But O'Neill would have faced other influences, too.

Catholic schools studiously avoid all mention of Ireland or Irish history. His school in Fulham, The London Oratory, a famous bastion of English Catholicism, would not have

encouraged Irishness. And perhaps trips to Ireland produced fresh confusion. As a child, on frequent summer holidays "home" to Ireland, Diarmuid would have been taunted by relatives for his English accent. Did they call him "the sassanach" – a pejorative word for English?

He used to go on holiday in west Cork, a strongly republican area, scene of some of the most vicious killings, by all sides, in the civil war of the 1920s. Did O'Neill find that even his red hair and his

Gaelic name were not enough to establish his credentials. Did he feel he had to make some other more dramatic gesture to prove who he really was?

Most people like O'Neill live with their duality, their confusion, defining themselves as a complex of Irishness and Englishness. It can be a creative process. Mary Hickman, of the University of North London's Irish Studies Centre, has surveyed school children born of Irish parents. "In every study you find that no more than 20 per cent ever call themselves simply English. They describe themselves as mixtures."

And the Irish in Britain don't generally get involved in politics – they like to keep a low profile for fear of being considered a threat. Irishness for them is a family, domestic affair to be celebrated, perhaps, in the pub.

But something made Diarmuid O'Neill decide to be radical. He chose to negate his English upbringing completely and describe himself as totally Irish. Perhaps the crucial factor was his parents' decision to buy a place in Ireland, to which they eventually moved two years ago when they retired. Or maybe he wanted to emulate some of those historical, heroic figures with whom he grew up.

Or perhaps the key influences were political events in his upbringing. Born in 1969, his first television memories would have been of Belfast in the Seventies, echoing the stories told of the Twenties. And then there was the decade in which O'Neill became a teenager. He has been pictured with an edition of *An Phoblacht*, the republican newspaper, which commemorates the death in 1981 of the IRA hunger striker, Bobby Sands.

The hunger strike politicised many second generation Irish people, who campaigned with the old GLC, the Labour party and London Labour councils for nationalist political objectives. In that picture, Diarmuid O'Neill looks confident and happy. The fantasist at last knew who he was.

CINDY  
MANAGES  
TO SAY  
NO  
TO MORE  
EASTENDERS

She couldn't say no to Wicksy, she couldn't say no to Tricky Dicky, she couldn't say no to Matt, she couldn't say no to David Wicks. So find out in this week's Radio Times why she's saying no to any more Eastenders.

RadioTimes

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

هكذا من الأناحل

Fears of local authority purge after European court backs refusal of planning permission for woman to live in her own caravan

## Draw round the caravans, the gypsy way of life may be going forever

LOUISE JURY and CLARE GARNER

A gypsy refused planning permission for her caravan now faces eviction after the European Court of Human Rights ruled against her.

The court decided South Cambridgeshire District Council had taken the traditional lifestyle of June Buckley into account when it would not let her stay on land she owned, and had not acted unreasonably in asking her to leave.

The decision could affect up to 400 other gypsies believed to be living illegally on their own land and last night prompted fears of a purge against them by local authorities.

However, the case could also

pave the way for greater long-term security for gypsies as, in deciding to accept the case, the European Court recognised for the first time that their way of life might be protected under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mrs Buckley and her solicitor, Luke Clements, said they would fight on. "I won't stop here," she said. "A year ago, the Government said they wanted to encourage travellers to buy their own land and develop it. Now we are starting to do it, they don't want it."

Mr Clements added: "This is the first gypsy case that has ever got to Strasbourg. It would have been lovely to win, but the court has unanimously said it will consider each case on its



Fighting all the way: June Buckley yesterday in her caravan, which will have to be moved Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

### A people apart

Gypsies used to be thought of as originating in Egypt, hence the name; but they are now believed to be of North-Indian origin, arriving in England at about the turn of the 15th Century.

A law was passed expelling gypsies from England in 1531, and Scotland in 1541. Henry VIII further decreed that anyone meeting a gypsy could behead them with a clear conscience. His daughter Elizabeth later passed a law saying they could legally be sold and traded as slaves.

Supposed fear of spying led to a law 1939 which made it illegal for any gypsy caravan to be sited within 10 miles of coastline.

Around half a million European gypsies were killed by the Nazis before and during the Second World War.

The number of gypsies defined by the National Gypsy Council as "persons of nomadic tradition" in the UK today is estimated as 50,000; the number of gypsy caravans is thought to be around 14,000.

Ben Summers

Cambridgeshire's legal and housing director, said the rules would be enforced. The council had granted more planning permissions to travellers on their own land - nearly 180 spaces - than any local authority.

Robert Jones, planning minister, said the Government would consider the judgment but saw no need for changes to UK planning practice. "The court has recognised the common sense of the UK position,"

Hughie Smith, National Gypsy Council president, said: "I'm concerned at the decision. It may give credence to local authorities who turn down planning applications by gypsies on the weakest of excuses." There were 14,000 caravans in Britain, excluding New Age travellers.



On the open road: In recent years gypsies have tried to adapt to new realities, but their traditional way of life is long gone Photograph: Hulton Getty

## Gang boy 'admitted Lawrence stabbing'

CHARLIE BAIN

A teenage boy yesterday described to an Old Bailey jury how the 15-year-old leader of a Triad-style gang turned to his friends and confessed to stabbing headmaster Philip Lawrence moments after the fatal assault.

The 16-year-old witness - who cannot be named for legal reasons - described events leading up to the father-of-four's death and told how he was invited to join the gang on the day Mr Lawrence was murdered.

The youth told the court how he had met 11 other boys at Burger King in Euston station where they planned to descend on St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale to beat up another boy.

"One of the boys said it was going to be a laugh," the witness

told the jury. He said he had met the defendant, who was the self-appointed leader of the gang, three or four times before. He didn't know the name of the gang "but other people called them Triads", he said.

He described how they rounded up more gang members from King's Cross station and returned to Euston where the defendant organised them into three groups.

"We were to back up the other two groups," he said, "the first was going to fight, the second group was to help them and then if people came and jumped in, then my group were to go in."

The gang took a tube train to Maida Vale where they split up into their prearranged groups and marched on St George's, with the defendant leading the way.

It was at this point that a fight broke out, the witness said. "There was lots of shouting behind me from the direction of the school gates ... I turned around and I saw a large group of people and a pole being raised in the air and brought down ... twice."

The witness told the jury how the gang ran away from the school in disarray, regrouping in a nearby street. Moments later, the defendant joined them "looking worried".

"He said he'd made a mistake and that he'd stabbed a teacher," said the witness.

The 16-year-old defendant denies the charge of murder and two further charges of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and wounding with intent.

A co-defendant, also aged 15, denies the latter two charges. The trial continues today.

## Police chiefs attacked for opposing Howard reform

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The head of a senior police association yesterday attacked what he described as "young and so-called progressive" chief constables for opposing Home Office proposals for tough new sentencing regimes.

At the same time, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, conceded that his plans for a crack down on repeat offenders may fail to become law

before the general election if opposed in Parliament. His proposals cover minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers, and automatic life sentences for second-time sex and violent offenders.

The accusation of attitudes being too liberal came from Chief Superintendent Brian MacKenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales, speaking at its annual conference in Stratford-upon-Avon.

He had heard of university-educated chief constables opposing Mr Howard's key planks, but said it was "in the national interest" for them to go through.

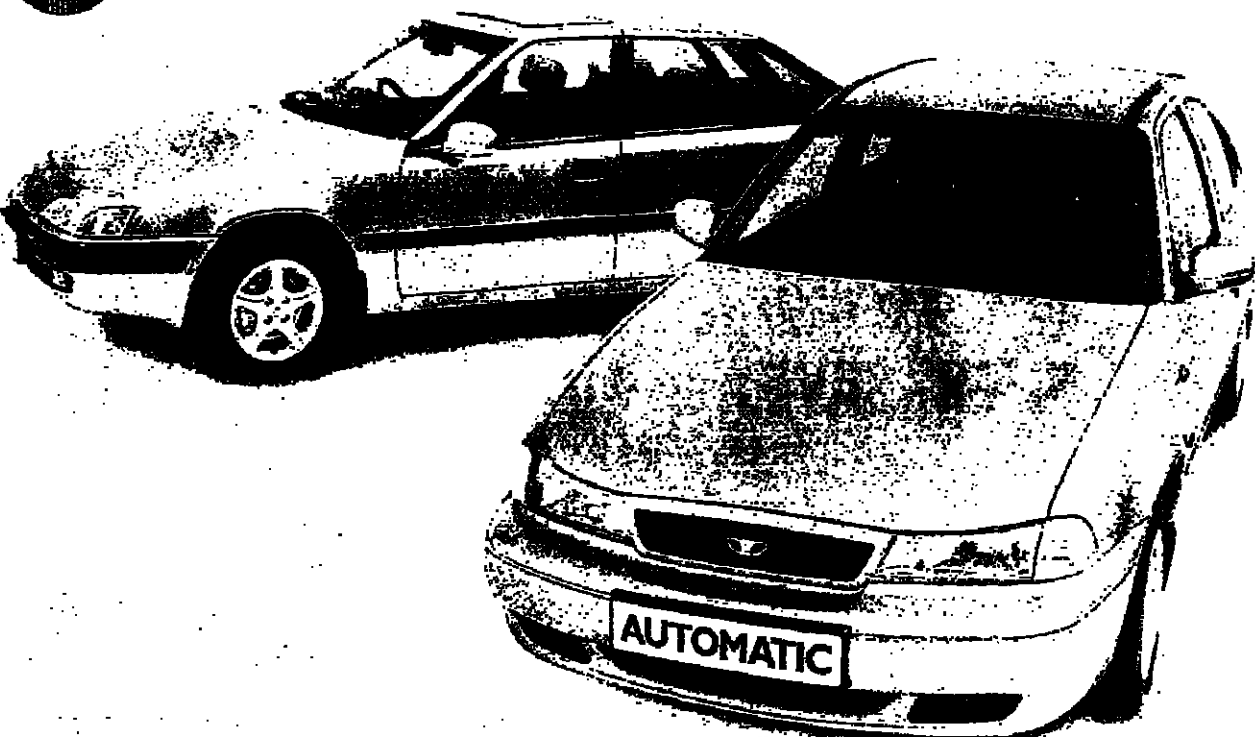
Mr Howard, speaking at the conference, stressed that the proposals should pass to the statute book. "However, they have already prompted stern opposition from the judiciary, including the previous Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor. In May, Lord Taylor said: "Never in the history of criminal law have such far-reaching proposals been put forward on the strength of such flimsy and dubious evidence."

The judiciary believes minimum sentences would limit their discretion in fitting punishment to cases. The measures would also increase the prison population.

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, says Labour will oppose any plans for the removal of judicial discretion. "New legislation to outlaw stalking could be on the statute book before the next general election, the Home Secretary said yesterday."



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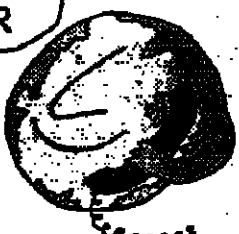
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David Aaronovitch tries not to get into bed with Labour. Page 6.



# £350m for NHS from perks purge

ANTHONY BEVINS  
Political Editor

The Liberal Democrats would close a tax loophole which feeds City "cats", to raise an extra £350m a year for the National Health Service, the party's spokesman Simon Hughes pledged yesterday.

Mr Hughes told the Liberal Democrats conference in Brighton that the party would make good its long-standing promise to close the loophole through which employers avoid paying National Insurance contributions on perk payments.

Of the £350m raised by the move, he said, £200m would be spent on recruiting and retaining much-needed staff, and the remaining £150m would be used to bring down to six months the maximum waiting time between hospital diagnosis and treatment.

The loophole, Mr Hughes said, allowed some of the "cats" of whatever size, in the City and elsewhere to receive huge sums from tax-dodging employers "who should know better".

"Millions of pounds have been paid in gold bars, life policies, expensive wines and other valuables to avoid paying tax to the Exchequer. Responsible firms shouldn't spend their time thinking up tax wheezes, and we wouldn't let them. We'd close this illogical loophole for good," he said.

Unfortunately, the Inland Revenue later pointed out that parts of the loophole had already been closed, including those relating to gold bars.

Nevertheless, and with few believing that Mr Hughes would be in a position as the Secretary of State for Health, to deliver either the money or his promise, he said that the money raised from such a move over the remaining six months of the financial year would be enough to fund the current year's £178m NHS deficit. "With this

additional sum, the currently forecast cuts in this year's services need not now go ahead," he said. "It will be possible to halt the current finance-driven reduction of beds, wards and other services."

Mr Hughes said that in many parts of the country, particularly in urban areas, general practitioners were retiring, and not being replaced. There had also been a dramatic reduction in the number of nurses qualifying.

"In 1983, there were 37,000 new nurses. By last year, there were 13,000 new nurses. In 1998, there are likely to be only 6,000. It is little wonder that some hospital managers have had to fly to Canada to recruit."

Mr Hughes said that people no longer felt they were working for a single, coherent, and proud National Health Service. He called for three-year contracts to help health authorities to plan ahead, and a return to national pay bargaining for nurses.

As for the Tories' "reform gone mad", Mr Hughes asked: "Who knows what is going on in our health service? Surely somebody knows how many hospitals there are? How many casualty departments are open? Where beds are available, and what are the real lengths of waiting lists?"

Mr Hughes said that no one had any answers as to what was really going on in the NHS. The market was not working in the health service, but it was impossible to find out how bad things really were. All further bed and hospital closures should be halted for a year, he said, while an independent national audit of health demand and provision was carried out.

"The precondition to regaining national control of the National Health Service," he said, "is to regain public control of the facts".



This won't hurt a bit: Alan Beith, the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, takes to the dentist's chair as his party debates the health of nation at its conference in Brighton yesterday  
Photograph: Tom Pilston

## Local choice on new grammar schools

FRAN ABRAMS

Councils should be allowed to open new grammar schools, the Liberal Democrats agreed yesterday. Delegates passed a motion which would leave decisions on the future of selective schools to local communities. Some had argued that while authorities should be able to decide on the future of existing grammars, they should

not be free to discuss the possibility of new ones.

The party remains opposed to wholesale plans for a grammar school in every town, which has been proposed by the Government. Its policy is in line with that of Labour, which would allow parents to vote on whether selection should continue where it already exists.

Yesterday Patrick Short, chairman of the Liberal Democrats' education policy working group, said he would like to see selection ended immediately, but that the issue should be left open to debate. "I would campaign against any attempt to reintroduce selection. But I would defend to the end local people's rights to influence such decisions."

Delegates voted 308-299 for

his view but several speakers opposed it. Stephanie Bailey, from Yeovil, Somerset, the constituency of Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, said Liberal Democrats should stand up for what they believed in. "This debate is about the reintroduction of grammar schools, a recipe for social division. We will not sanction a return to the past, in which young children are told they are failures at age 11."

### MAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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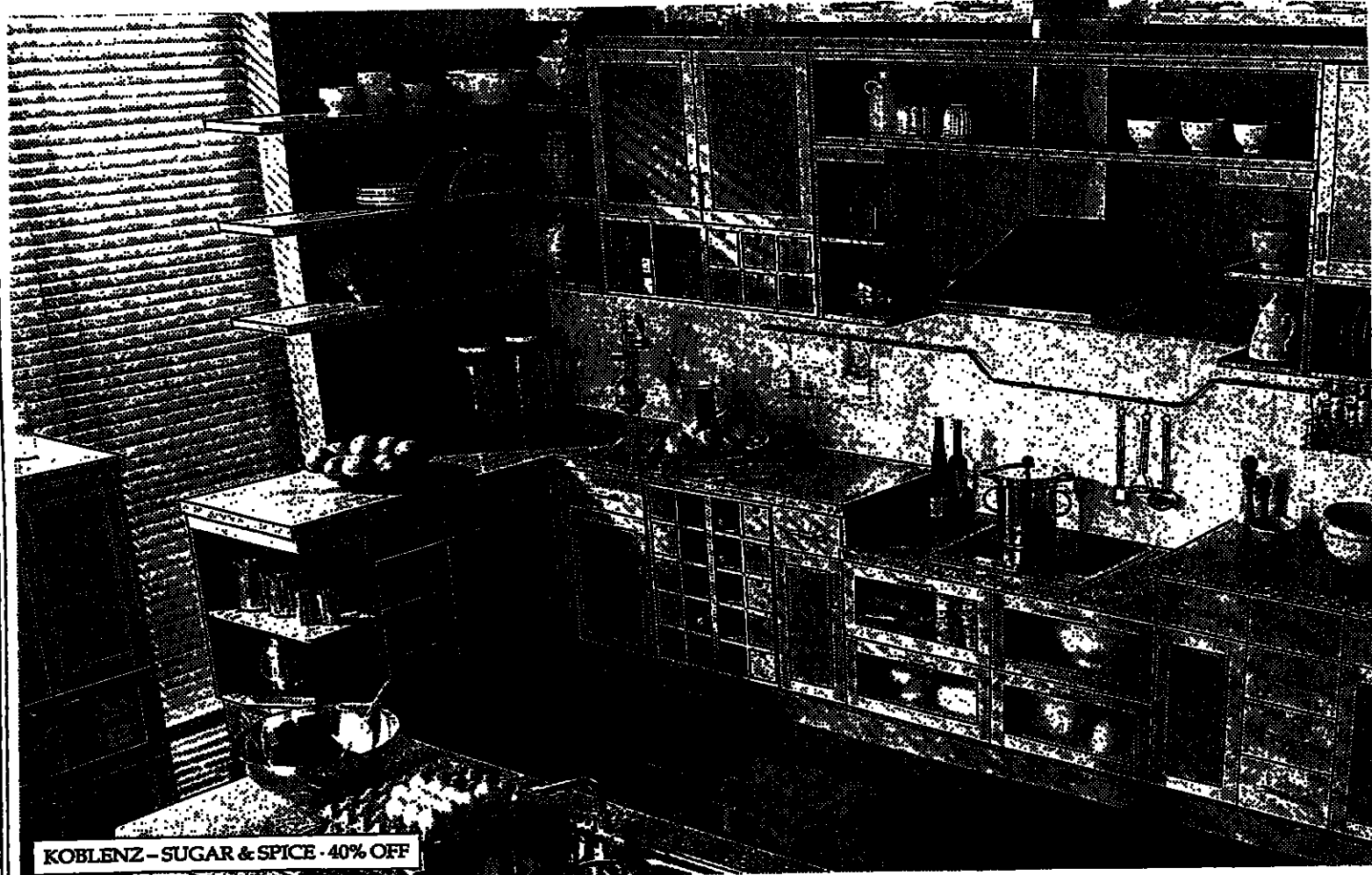
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Food for thought

## No room in the bed for Labour

It being a splendid day in Brighton, with the call of the sea and seaside pursuits tagging at my urban soul, I took a particular effort of will to point myself at the Sheridan Hotel, and spent my lunch-time with Liberal Democrat activists, at a meeting entitled "Why We Do Not Want To Get Into Bed With Labour".

I nearly got very lost. The arrows that the meeting's organisers had thoughtfully provided for guidance, led into the labyrinthine bowels of a small hotel, taking me first to the left, then to the right, through a fire door, and finally back in the street outside. It was an ordeal.

I finally found the room and, while waiting for others to arrive, pondered the name given to the debate. It was at once both a euphemism and a metaphor. "Getting into bed" with someone usually connotes sexual activity. This in turn is a metaphor for a closer political relationship between New Labour and Lib-Dems.

The organisers of the meeting, therefore, were expressing their disinclination to have political sex with Tony and Gordon and Jack. So who were these reluctant seducers? And why were they so keen to resist the embraces of a supposedly amorous major party?

In the Liberal Democrat Party, whenever there is talk of grass-roots opposition to X, or activist resentment of Y, the odd figure of Tony Greaves, veteran councillor for Pendle in Lancashire, can be described in the distance, and coming closer: A pavement politician before there were pavements, Greaves was here to spell out his misgivings about almost everything.

Councillor Greaves is easily identifiable. With his large features and bushy beard he resembles a garden gnome on growth hormones. Fortunately the minor miracle of his simultaneous baldness and luxuriant long hair was made more

explicable by the considerate placing of a wall-length mirror behind the speaker's table. I would, I must admit, love to have Tony Greaves as my councillor. Very soon his vast energy, fantastic head for detail and phenomenally high boredom threshold, would sort out all those niggling problems that councils usually fail to deal with. So I am sure that his constituents revere him. I am also sure that they train their dogs to warn of his approach, so that they can hide in the garden.

For Tony is not easy-going. As his speech unfurled it transpired that he didn't want to get into bed with the media either. Or with the leadership of his own party (who failed to understand politics). Or with many of the members of his own party (who were fairweather folk).

This all went down famously with his audience. They were now the real lefties, not Labour. The leader of the Sheffield Lib-Dems predicted the mass defection of "radical, young, educated 20-year-olds in public sector jobs, living in council estates". But Tony Blair is not in competition for this tiny vote, which is why he makes his appeal to the inhabitants of those vast tracts of suburbia. The last thing he wants to find in his bed is Greaves and company. This makes some Lib-Dems into reverse stalkers - following others around, constantly pestering them by saying how much they don't love them, and how they are determined not to have their babies. It's all a bit sad.



DAVID AARONOVITCH

## Demand for aid package

An immediate support package to help beef farmers through the winter was demanded by Liberal Democrats yesterday, writes Stephen Goodwin. With beef bull prices down to £200 a head, some farmers faced bankruptcy, the conference was told.

In an emergency debate on the BSE crisis, a succession of farmers came to rostrum to denounce Douglas Hogg and his Government colleagues. Compensation to beef farmers amounting to about £54 a head was dismissed as a "flea bite".

Jim Barnard, parliamentary candidate for Tiverton and Honiton, said that as a farmer, life had become "an horrific rollercoaster ride of contradictory announcements and pathetic day-to-day management" by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Early in the summer ministers predicted that the backlog of cattle over 30 months old awaiting the cull would be cleared by October. But Mr Barnard said that in the South-West of England alone there was still a backlog of almost 100,000 animals. "Farmers are entering the winter with more animals than they have fodder to feed," he said.

The conference called for immediate support to maintain the beef industry, emergency powers to remove the backlog of cattle awaiting the cull and the creation of a Food Safety Commission to reduce the risk of similar crises.

Why your tax return rebounds on the Inland Revenue

page 7

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# Self-assessment causes chaos at Inland Revenue

BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

Confidential papers reveal that with less than six weeks to go before the introduction of self-assessment of tax the Inland Revenue faces a massive backlog of work, with staff in open rebellion over a proposed agreement to deal with the new system.

Internal figures show the department has already received 500,000 more letters than last year and 1 million more telephone inquiries in the run-up to launch day on 4 November. Post unanswered for more than a month has increased by more than 200,000 items. A £200m computer system has been unable to cope with test-runs for what ministers insist will be a simplified process.

As the Revenue attempts to deal with a huge increase in workload, staff has been cut by up to 1,000 over the past year and another 2,000 are set to go in the next 12 months. Some 75 rural tax offices are to close.

The looming crisis could mean complete chaos, with the PTC, the biggest Whitehall union, considering industrial action over a pay deal worth nearly twice the inflation rate, but tied to an agreement to work longer when necessary to cope with self-assessment.

Despite a recommendation

by the union's national executive, employees have rejected the 4.4-per-cent package by an unprecedented two to one. Only once before has a deal endorsed by the union been rejected by tax officers and then only by a wafer-thin majority.

Senior Revenue officials admit the department is facing an avalanche of extra work. An extra 9 million phone calls are expected next year after tax returns are sent out in April and an additional 300,000 visits by taxpayers to Revenue offices.

Jim McAuslan, deputy general secretary of the PTC, said the Inland Revenue had spent £25m on advertisements to persuade taxpayers to be ready for self-assessment by keeping their own records. "The truth of the matter however is that the Revenue itself is far from ready for self-assessment," he said.

He said his members were "frustrated and angry" over the pressure of work and knew the burden was bound to get heavier.

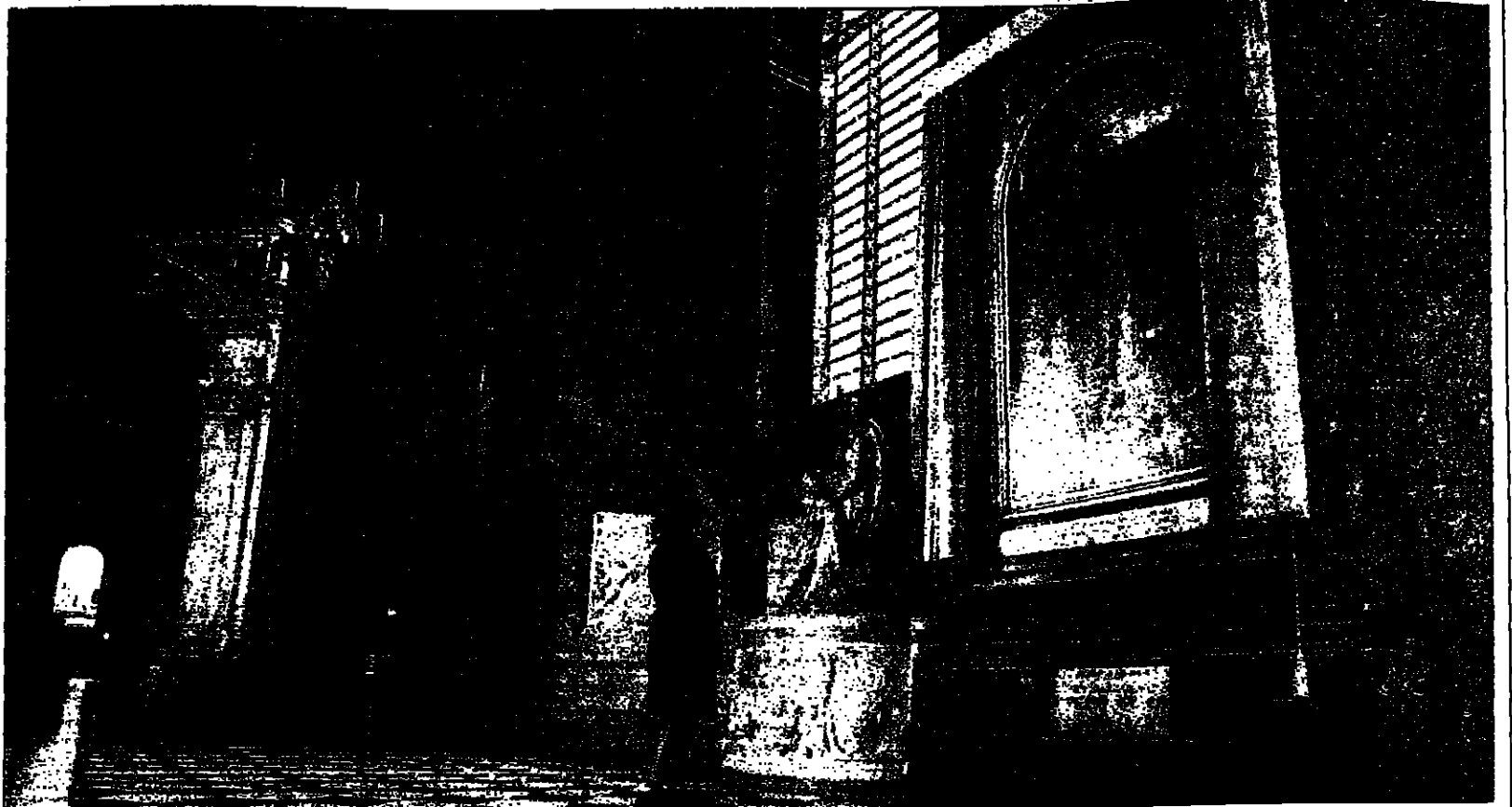
Ministers said they expected the new method to be introduced on time but staff believe colleagues will be moved from other departments, including those chasing unpaid tax, to ensure the deadline is met. While ministers argued that self-assessment would make the lives of taxpayers easier, Mr McAuslan pointed out that an explanatory leaflet to be sent out

with returns is 40 pages long.

The Revenue's most experienced staff had left during the past year and they were the people needed to smooth over the transition to the new system. One of the local tax offices due to close is in John Major's Huntingdon constituency, Mr McAuslan said.

A Revenue spokeswoman said managers always expected an increased workload because of self-assessment but it would be a "one-off" as the new system was introduced. "There may be some temporary reduction in customer service in particular turnaround times" but officials were monitoring the situation and trying to minimise delays, she said.

## Light of the World restores grand illumination to St Paul's



Victorian icon: An employee of Christie's gazes up at the newly restored *Light of the World*, painted by William Holman Hunt between 1901 and 1904. The masterpiece, which took seven months to clean, is one of the most celebrated religious works ever executed. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

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## Court martial abused rights

Significant changes in the way court martials are conducted in Britain will not end the unfairness of the system, judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg were told yesterday.

Revised procedures aimed at reinforcing the independence of the military courts come into force next April. But that will be too late to help Falklands' veteran Alexander Findlay, said John Mackenzie, his lawyer.

Mr Findlay, 35, suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder after the battle of Tumbledown in 1982 - but that was overlooked when he was court martialled in 1991 for taking Army colleagues hostage at gunpoint in Northern Ireland. The former Scots Guardsman, who lives in Windsor, Berkshire, is still so traumatised he could not attend yesterday's session. But he accused the Government of breaching his human rights because of the conduct of his court martial.

Mr Mackenzie said that Mr Findlay had been denied a fair hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal, as guaranteed by the Human Rights Convention to which Britain is a signatory. He urged the judges in Strasbourg to find the Government in violation of the convention and to award substantial compensation.



Findlay: Suffering trauma

The case is just the first in a series of attempts by Army and RAF personnel who have faced a court martial to have the system scrapped as a breach of human rights. If the judges back Mr Findlay, the Ministry of Defence could face dozens of claims and a bill for millions of pounds, even though changes already have Royal Assent.

Mr Findlay pleaded guilty at his court martial to offences committed after a heavy drinking session and was jailed for two years. Mr Mackenzie told the human rights judges that the current court martial procedure could not be deemed a properly constituted court with appropriately trained officials having legal qualifications or experience. The verdict will be delivered next year.

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8  
news

# Architects on a roll at the coast

JONATHAN GLANCEY

Architectural awards are normally given to dignified, workable, elegant and even beautiful buildings.

No one would expect a roller-coaster on a north England pleasure beach to merit equal status with handsome churches and smart university extensions, but this year's Riba Awards for Architecture are a little different.

Among the 51 award-winners chosen by judges up and down the country on behalf of the Royal Institute of British Architects is a "station for the Pepsi-Max Big One, Blackpool Pleasure Beach" designed by Philip England. "This building," said the jury, "is seriously fun, a contrast with most of its frothy polystyrene neighbours. It makes a fine contribution to Blackpool as it arrives at the centenary of its Pleasure Beach."

England's station is somewhat different from its Inter-City counterparts. Its function is to "handle the vertical transfer and storage of 30 three trains, provide maintenance workshops, and to load and unload passengers safely. It is designed for a maximum flow of 1,700 passengers per hour, and the loading section can hold 150 passengers at a time". Passengers at this award-winning station are taken for a vertiginous, scream-a-second ride on the world's tallest, fastest roller coaster (135 ft

high and 85 mph). England's design, said the judges, was thoughtful because it offered "a surprisingly calm space to contain the snaking queue of aspirants and quaking bodies of descendants".

Given Britain's ascent or descent, depending upon your point of view, over the past 15 years into a burger-chomping, Coke and Pepsi-swallowing, baseball-cap-wearing, gum-chewing shopping-mall society in which leisure has become the prime social goal, it seems only appropriate that a roller-coaster station on

**Passengers at this award-winning station are taken for a scream-a-second ride on the world's tallest, fastest roller-coaster**

Blackpool Pleasure Beach should win an award that 20 years ago would have gone to a school or hospital.

Announcing the awards today, Owen Luder, the Riba president, said: "There are more Riba awards than ever before, which suggests that we are currently witnessing the rise of an exceptional generation of architects." Among the most talented of the younger generation of architects are Troughton McAslan and Alies and Morrison, both of whom won

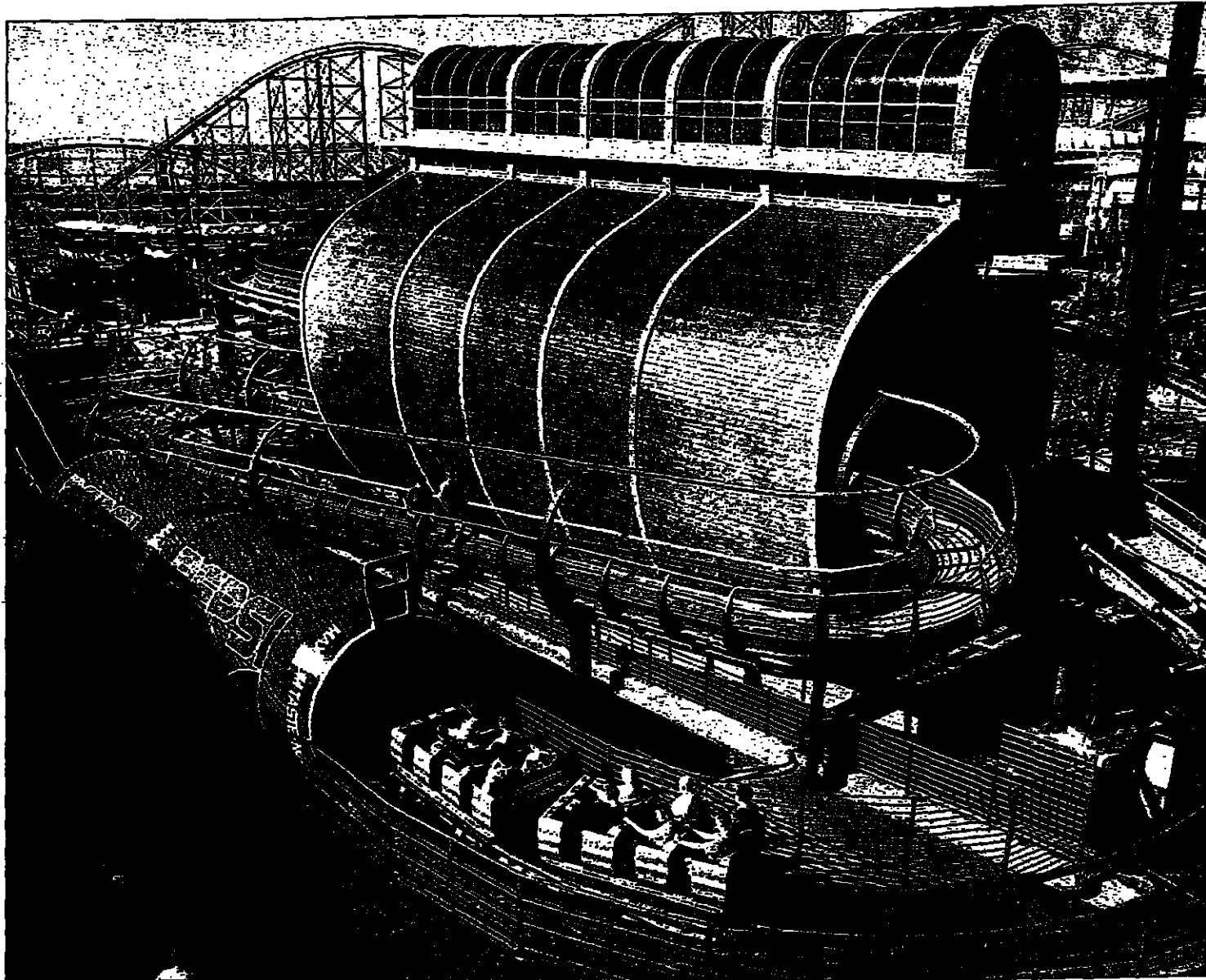
awards yesterday. The list suggests that a healthy number of civic buildings have been designed to high enough standards to win recognition from the Riba, yet Mr Luder said he was disappointed so few came from that sector. "I hope this is something that the National Lottery can rectify."

The National Lottery is itself something of a roller-coaster and, to date, there is hardly one major all new building of any architectural merit being funded by Millennium sources.

This may well be because the new-style British Leisure plc (formerly Great Britain) is much more interested in providing fun (for which read bread and circuses) for its customers (citizens was the boring old word) than creating architecture and civic spaces of lasting value.

Nevertheless, among the other 50 award-winners are a number of fine buildings that bear out Mr Luder's belief that British architecture is enjoying something of a renaissance.

Among these is one mainline railway station, Ashford International, which was designed by Nick Derbyshire Design Associates, a civic design that represents the cultural link between Britain and Europe as opposed to the transatlantic leisure line between Britain and the United States so neatly laid by Philip England's Pepsi Max Big One station Blackpool.

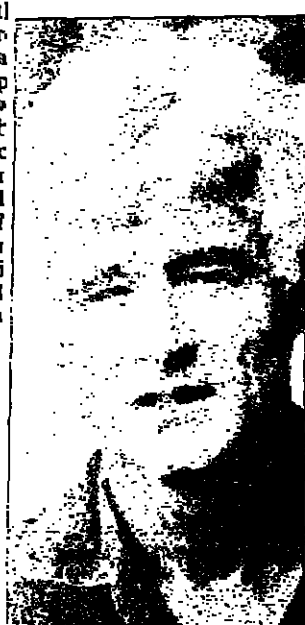


New England: The acclaimed station for the Pepsi-Max Big One at Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Photograph: Howard Barlow

## He deplored her standards. She was hurt and shocked. Now it's civil war at the BBC

MICHAEL STREETER



John Ware: Feared that BBC standards were declining

Civil war has broken out in the BBC over Esther Rantzen and her public row with the *Panorama* reporter, John Ware, about journalistic standards.

Senior staff are dismayed that publicity surrounding the dispute is, in the words of one source, "getting completely out of hand... There is a civil war and it's one in which some cannons are being fired underground. Some of the things going on - memos leaked to the press, high-profile interviews and colleagues questioning people about their private life - are way over the top. The tragedy is that the important issues have been lost."

The initial dispute started over a newspaper article by Mr Ware attacking an edition of *The Rantzen Report* which had criticised the lack of care in the British Home and Hospital for incurables in south London.

It focused on one patient, Ian Parker, and with the use of a hidden camera purported to show that he was left in a room to vegetate rather than being taken outside for stimulation.

Mr Ware said the programme failed to prove this central allegation and accused it of "sloppy and misleading" reporting and of having the "potential for seriously damaging the BBC's reputation for fair-minded journalism". Ms Rantzen was "hurt and shocked"

by the attack, which amounted to a "perversion of the truth, a twisting of the facts". In *The Independent* she said: "I have been described... as a tabloid journalist. If this means I make populist, accessible, programmes, it is a label I am proud to wear."

The BBC's director-general, John Birt, ordered an inquiry into the television episode and the article and a separate investigation into an allegation that Mr Ware had deliberately misled a witness while compiling his article, which he denies.

Battle lines have been drawn between those in the features department, who produce *The Rantzen Report*, and news and current affairs. A

news source said: "What John Ware said about journalistic standards and the fear of television distorting reality needed to be said."

Some sources believe there has been an attempt to avoid journalistic arguments and concentrate on "irrelevant" details, including Mr Ware's private life. Parts of a memo outlining the presenter's arguments were leaked to a newspaper, a leak publicly disowned by Ms Rantzen. The memo contains a claim by Ms Rantzen that Mr Ware failed to disclose a personal interest in his report, namely his friendship with a woman reporter whose mother works at the south London home.

*The Independent* has also discovered

that in the last of a series of memos, Ms Rantzen personally demanded from Mr Ware confirmation of the friendship by 2.30pm. It is claimed that within an hour of the "deadline" on 30 August, tabloid journalists rang a future boss of the woman reporter, asking about the relationship.

The next day, an interview with Ms Rantzen appeared in the same paper in which she said: "I think [Mr Ware] is motivated by a profound dislike of me and my work." Mr Ware, who refused to answer her questions, is believed to have told BBC bosses he wrote the article because of concern about journalistic standards and was not motivated by the friendship.



Esther Rantzen: 'Hurt and shocked' by reporter's article

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# Rhodes to nowhere: BBC's epic tale flops

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Media Correspondent

The BBC's major drama serial *Rhodes* is in danger of becoming a flop as colossal as its hero's exploits.

Viewing figures reveal that the £10m epic on the British empire-builder Cecil Rhodes is fighting for an audience. Only 4.8m watched the second episode on Sunday, down from 7.6m for the opening instalment.

The nine-hour series, starring Martin Shaw as the Victorian tycoon who became the wealthiest man in the Western world by the age of 30, is one of the BBC's boldest gambles.

A high-powered publicity campaign touted one of the most expensive British productions of all time. It took a decade to make, cost more than £1m per screen hour and employed 10,000 extras.

But the makers failed to make the programme truly accessible. Viewers complain of a difficult plot, centring on a man whose dream of extending the Empire from the Cape to Cairo left a million square miles



Empire line: (left to right) Ken Stott as Barney Barnato and Martin Shaw as Rhodes in the BBC production Photograph: Umberto Adaggi/BBC; and (right) the real Cecil Rhodes

of Africa coloured pink, and who inspired a country almost the size of Europe – Rhodesia – to be named after him.

Part of the problem is that the series assumes prior knowledge. And such are the intricacies

that the BBC has issued a 32-page explanatory booklet which it advertises at the end of each episode. But the £4.95 guide from the BBC Education Information Unit will not be available for another fortnight

– by which time the series will be half over.

By then it may be too late, as the rival *London's Burning* continues to lure viewers. And word-of-mouth, not to mention the critics, condemns the series.

It will be deeply embarrassing for the BBC if it fails to recoup its investment (with WGBH of the US, CBC of Canada and SABC of South Africa) through overseas sales. BBC Worldwide Television,

however, remains bullish. "It's obviously very disappointing about the ratings but it doesn't really affect international sales. Overseas broadcasters ... tend not to go on what critics say here," a spokeswoman said.

"A lot of programmes which haven't gone as well as we hoped ... have sold quite successfully internationally." A drama spokesman was also quick to defend BBC's bold epic. "It's not regarded as a flop

by the BBC. Frankly, if it were, we'd hold up our hands and say we got it wrong," he said. Sales are thought to be approaching £2m so far, and Rhodes will be shown to buyers in Cannes next week.

## Roasted by the critics

*Rhodes*, the epic story, started with everything against it and then they made it all worse – A A Gill, *Sunday Times*

The BBC's *Rhodes* is a man who cannot take a leak without the assistance of the Berlin Philharmonic – David Aaronovitch, *Independent on Sunday*

It was very odd – Lynne Truss, *The Times*

In nine tendentious hours, *Rhodes* is to be presented as a corrupt and greedy money-grabber, a racist and paedophile, whose disgusting passion was to get his hands on young boys ... the BBC has spent £10m of our money putting together a farrago of exaggerations and smears about this great man – Paul Johnson, *Daily Mail*

## SCREEN WATCH

Film stars will see their make-up artists in a different light following the opening of a new exhibition in November. Tom Smith began his caricatures of Jack Nicholson (pictured below), Ingrid Bergman, Sean Connery, Bing Crosby and Laurence Olivier to while away gaps between takes, but his sketches have become a collection of the cream of Hollywood. Smith has worked for most of the major US studios, starting on David Lean's 1948 film, *Oliver Twist*. In 1992, he won a BAFTA special award for his work as a make-up artist; now he is using a more conventional



medium, with an exhibition at the Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, London, from 1 November.

The same day, film buffs can look forward to the London premiere of a biography of Lloyd George, albeit 78 years after its makers intended. *The Life Story of David Lloyd George* was made with the then prime minister's blessing but was suppressed before its release.

No one has ever fathomed the reason for its disappearance, but the negatives were found among Lloyd George's belongings in his house in Wales. The biopic, starring Norman Page as Lloyd George, will be screened at the National Film Theatre as part of a British Film Institute celebration of the work of film archives.

The first London International Women's Film Festival opens at the Everyman cinema in Hampstead, north London, next month. It will include screenings of more than 120 films and will run from 5 to 18 October.

MARIANNE MACDONALD

## DAILY POEM

Securing Shadows  
By Robin Robertson

The photographic light eats the plate  
to make the moment hold,  
but the subject has grown older  
while the print is being made,  
and is older still  
when the paper finally dries.

All eyes have cataracts  
from the blur of blinking,  
all faces, deathmasks, rising  
from their twins like wraiths.  
We have caught the memento mori,  
the injuries of time, and coloured them  
bruisse-blue and sanguine. Lovers,  
exposed by corpse-light.

This poem by Robin Robertson forms part of an extended verse sequence, *Camera Obscura*, about the life of the pioneering photographer David Octavius Hill (1802-70). Hill was a Scottish landscape painter who – moved to record the faces of 474 dissident clergy at the time of the secession of the Free Church from the Church of Scotland in 1843 so that he might paint them – turned to Fox Talbot's new technique, the calotype. *Camera Obscura* is too a portrait: of the family tragedies that shaped Hill's life, of his artistic triumphs and failures, and of the city of Edinburgh itself in the era that followed the Enlightenment.

*Camera Obscura* is published in a limited edition of 200 (£10) from Colophon Press, 18a Prentiss Road, London SW16 1QD. Robin Robertson reads at the Poetry Society, 22 Bedford Street, London WC2 at 6.30pm on Monday 30 September.

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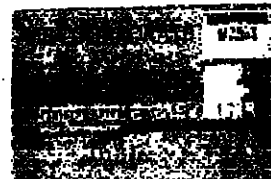
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# Turks' offensive against Kurds alarms EU

TONY BARBER  
Europe Editor

Eighteen leaders of Turkey's only legal Kurdish political party went on trial in Ankara yesterday as thousands of Turkish troops continued an offensive against Kurdish rebels in the violence-ridden south-east.

A state prosecutor told the court that the People's Democracy Party (HDP) was a front for the banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), the rebel

group fighting the armed forces in the south-east. The Kurdish politicians are accused of "leadership of an armed gang" and face up to 22 years in prison if convicted. Another 25 lower-ranking party members face maximum sentences of 15 years.

The trial has attracted the attention of European politicians and pressure groups who accuse the Turkish authorities of failing to honour repeated promises to clean up their human rights record. The European Parlia-

ment, which only reluctantly approved a European Union customs union with Turkey last year, threatened last week to block EU aid for Turkey unless it improved its performance.

Kurdish politicians formed HDP in 1994 after Turkey's constitutional court banned another party for alleged separatism. Six Kurdish members of parliament were later imprisoned in a case that almost caused the European Parliament to reject customs union.

The trial coincides with a major anti-Kurdish military operation in the eastern province of Iğdır, where about 20,000 troops backed by bomber aircraft, helicopter gunships and tanks have attacked rebel positions. The mountainous region was visited this week by Turkey's chief of staff, İsmail Hakkı Karadayı, who claimed that 1,000 rebels had been killed in the south-east since 15 August.

"Whatever the age of the terrorist hiding in the mountains,

we have reduced his life expectancy," the general said. About 20,000 people are believed to have died during the 12-year war in the south-east, where the PKK is fighting for Kurdish autonomy.

In another sign of the tensions surrounding the Kurdish issue, at least nine prisoners, mostly PKK members, died last Tuesday during a riot at a jail in the south-eastern city of Diyarbakır. The riot broke out after prisoners protested that the

government had not improved jail conditions, as it promised to do after a nationwide hunger strike that ended last July with 12 inmates starved to death.

Violence flared when inmates at the Diyarbakır prison refused to let the authorities transfer 14 fellow-prisoners to another jail. Prison officials have often dispersed inmates or placed them in single cells as a way of breaking up tight-knit, politically extreme groups that would find it easy to take con-

trol of the large, sprawling wards in Turkish prisons.

Kurdish problems have intensified at a sensitive time for the Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, Turkey's first Islamist leader since the fall of the Ottoman Empire. He is attempting to balance traditional closeness to the West with new alliances with Islamic and other non-Western countries.

Yet Mr Erbakan startled the United States, Turkey's main ally, by making Iran the desti-

nation of his first foreign trip. He may have upset the US even more by announcing that next week he intends to visit Libya and Nigeria, both out of favour with Western governments.

Meanwhile, his Foreign Minister, Tansu Çiller, shocked the US last weekend by suggesting Turkey would be happy to see President Saddam Hussein take control of northern Iraq. Mrs Çiller's remarks were at sharp odds with US policy, and she quickly withdrew them.

## German castration lobby grows louder

IMRE KARACS  
Bonn

As the seven-year-old Bavarian girl murdered by a known child molester was buried in her village yesterday, the German parliament was set to rush through draconian laws against sex offenders.

"The great pain renders us speechless and stunned," said Bishop Rudolf Schönbach in his requiem Mass in the village of Epfach, where the body of Natalie Astner was discovered on Sunday. In front of the altar, decorated with white carnations, stood a smiling picture of Natalie. Most of the 500 members of the Catholic community attended the service, and most of Germany appeared to be with them in spirit.

The politicians, however, have been anything but speechless. The government of Bavaria is to submit proposals to the Bonn parliament today calling for longer prison terms for child molesters and compulsory chemical castration.

The law would raise the maximum term for rape to 15 years from the current 10, and legalise preventive detention for offenders deemed dangerous to the community.

Some liberals have criticised the conservative Bavarians' knee-jerk reaction, but in the wake of outrage sweeping Germany their voices are drowned out by louder chorus of indignation. Primed by the events in Belgium in recent weeks, the German public is baying for blood.

Natalie's alleged killer, an electrician named Armin Schreiner, 27, is said to have confessed to abducting and killing her, although he denies sexual abuse. Police said that Mr Schreiner, who knew Natalie's father, kidnapped the girl less than 100 yards from her home as she was going to school on Friday morning. He drove her to a country road, stripped her and sexually abused her.

Police said that according to his own version, Natalie begged for mercy, and promised not to reveal her secret to anyone. But he wanted to take no chances. He smashed Natalie's head against a tree and tossed her unconscious body into the river Loch. An hour after her disappearance, she was dead.

Mr Schreiner would still be in jail for the sexual abuse of children had he not been released early last year for good behaviour from a five-and-a-half

year sentence. Although the judicial authorities stand by their decision to free him, the laws on parole are certain to be tightened up.

The Bavarian call for castration, however, is facing a tougher ride in the federal assembly. The neutering lobby wants offenders to be injected with the drug Androcur, which counteracts the actions of male hormones produced in the brain. The "cure" is already available on a voluntary basis, with mixed results. "Chemical castration can be a help on an individual basis, but it makes no sense without additional psychotherapy," the psychiatrist Freidmann Pfäfflin said. There appear to be not enough psychiatrists in Germany to deal with all the offenders at once.

The biggest problem with chemical castration is that even if it succeeds in dampening a rapist's sex drive, the treatment would not affect his violent urges. Experts point out that, however perverse it may sound, only about 5 per cent of sexual offences are sexually motivated.

Following Natalie's death, Germans are inclined to argue that the other 95 per cent should be locked up for good.



Lessons of history: A portrait of Sun Yat-sen, who overthrew the Manchu dynasty and founded the Republic of China in 1911, is moved into Tiananmen Square in Peking yesterday ready for celebrations of National Day on 1 October. Photograph: Reuters

## Gastronomic Garibaldi succumbs to fashion for dietary correctness

Rome — In 1891, a cranky old gentleman from Florence called Pellegrino Artusi published what was to become the bible of Italian cuisine, a collection of nearly 800 recipes entitled *The Science of Cooking and The Art of Eating Well*. It became an overnight success, winning Artusi the admiration of countless housewives who wrote to him in adoring tones, and turning him into a national figurehead, the Italian equivalent of Brillat-Savarin, Escoffier and Mrs Beeton all rolled into one.

These days, Artusi is looked upon as a kind of gastronomic Garibaldi, a man who brought together the disparate culinary traditions of the Italian regions

Andrew Gumbel chews over a new edition that makes an indigestible meal of updating Italy's best-loved food book

in the name of national unity. He is still read voraciously, not so much for his recipes as for his style, which displays a canny knack for story-telling in the tradition of the Arabian Nights. A tale about a homesick medical student from Romagna unfolds into a sumptuous recipe for cappelletti in brodo: his rendering of minestrone recalls a cholera epidemic in Livorno that claimed the life of the owner of a favourite restaurant.

Artusi is outrageous, demanding hours of hard manual labour to prepare dishes loaded down with lard, ox mar-

row and pig's trotters. A 70-year-old bachelor, Artusi was wonderfully reactionary, dismissing the sensitive constitutions of his lady correspondents as symptoms of nervous hypochondria.

Of course, no modern Italian household seriously tries to emulate his diet: instead, his book is treated as a much-loved piece of history (it is the volume most frequently stolen from public libraries).

So it was with a certain amount of scepticism a few days ago that I tore off the plastic wrapping from a new volume

presented to me, somewhat incongruously, as a free gift thrown in with an oil change at a service station on the Bologna-Ancona motorway.

The new book is called *Artusi 2000*, and is written by two dieticians, Giuseppe Sangiorgi and Annamaria Todi, who with a relentless lack of humour have been through the master's recipes one by one, criticising them for their excessive richness, fat imbalances and high cholesterol content.

Each dish is broken down into food groups and calorie counts, or, in the authors'

own phrase, into "dietetic-nutritional data". Charts show how quickly you can expect to keel over from cardiac arrest after munching your way through the more extravagant menus. The authors have taken it upon themselves to censor certain ingredients ("We don't advise you to add the pork crackling, and in fact we haven't included it in our breakdowns"). Readers are urged to skim the fat off the top of stocks and stews, and reminded that thrushes and other small birds Artusi delights in are protected species.

Have the authors missed the point? Yes. But is this a sign of the times? Regrettably, it must be. For years, Italy escaped the diet obsessions of other Western countries, largely because its traditional peasant cuisine, based on olive oil, plentiful fresh fruit and vegetables and only moderate quantities of meat, was fundamentally healthy. There are few obese men around and, despite the stereotypical image of the fat mamma, even fewer obese women.

The gamin look, so beloved of Paris catwalks and women's

magazines in Britain and the United States, has never been popular in Italy; the ideal Italian woman has always been well-endowed up top and a little plump around the edges. Sophia Loren, even at 60, is still a potent sex symbol.

*Artusi 2000* is one sign that all that may be about to change. Television advertisements are beginning to tout diet foods and weight-loss programmes. The latest issue of Italian *Marie Claire* writes approvingly of a course which invites consenting adult women to throw away £400 so they can starve them-

selves on a diet of stale bread and water for a week. The *Corriere della Sera's* weekly colour supplement has declared that super-thin is in.

Most Italian women I know have been on diets recently (mozzarella, they warn in grave tones, stays in your mouth for 30 seconds but on your hips for ever).

Even *Artusi 2000* lets its hair down every now and again. A recipe for tortelli oozing with butter, eggs and cheese is denounced as a caloric bomb. But then the po-faced authors add: "The deliciousness of these tortelli justifies, at least in part, a little lapse in the usual dietary rules. Just don't eat them too often."

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To qualify for the offer, simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing in The Independent and Independent on Sunday. If you have a Starter Token, it can be used instead of a numbered token, but only one Starter Token can be used to make up your token collection.

Attach two tokens to one of the special vouchers printed in the paper (each of which bears a third token) and take it to your nearest Café Rouge between 30 September and 13 October inclusive, to enjoy one of our two great offers - lunch for £5 or dinner for £10. You must identify yourself as an 'Independent / Café Rouge

Voucher Holder' and present your voucher and tokens on arrival at the restaurant. You will be given a copy of our exclusive menu, details of which were printed in The Independent yesterday.

Today we print Token 6 and the second of our vouchers; Token 7 will be printed in tomorrow's paper. A final voucher will be printed on Sunday 29 September.

If you want to try both of our superb offers of lunch for £5 and dinner for £10, you can do so. Just remember to collect three differently numbered tokens plus a voucher for each offer.

Tokens can be redeemed at any time between 30 September and 13 October 1996 inclusive.

### Terms and Conditions

1. The offer entitles two people to either lunch for £5 each or dinner for £10 each when a voucher and three differently numbered tokens are presented at one of the Café Rouges listed in our promotion.

2. Only one Starter Token can be used instead of a numbered token.

3. The cost of drinks is not included in either offer and a 12.5% optional service charge will be added to the cost of any drinks or purchases additional to the offer.

4. Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are not acceptable.

5. The offer is valid from 30 September to 13 October 1996.

6. For readers who have an Independent/Café Rouge promotional passport, this qualifies as a voucher. It can be redeemed at any Café Rouge restaurant listed in our promotion, as long as two differently numbered tokens are attached, alongside your Starter Token.

7. Offer does not apply to Café Rouge Dublin.

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If you are not sure where your nearest Café Rouge is, simply call 0171 478 8042 for details. Opening hours are Mon-Sat: 10am-11pm, Sun: 10am-10.30pm. For city branches, check with your local Café Rouge.

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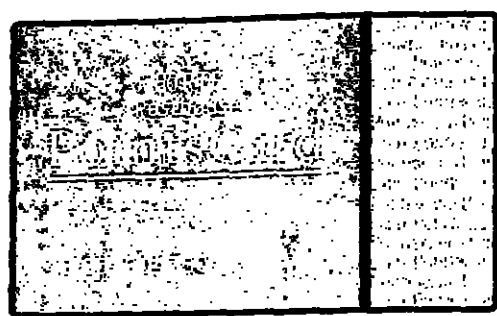
CAFÉ ROUGE RESTAURANT BAR CAFE  
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# Arafat's policemen killed by Israelis

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work



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## international

'People were murdered brutally, with knives, machetes and clubs. You had to pay money if you wanted to be killed by a bullet'

David Orr meets survivors of Rwanda's genocide as the first trials begin

Taba — In a grove of trees outside the village there are two rectangular plots, each measuring about 40ft by 15ft, their borders edged with plants. These are the mass graves in which some of the thousands of Taba residents slaughtered in the early days of the Rwandan genocide in 1994 are buried.

The man accused of having organised, and in many cases committed, these killings is Jean-Paul Akayesu, 43, the former mayor of Taba, a commune in the central Rwandan prefecture of Gitarama. His trial, the first to be held by the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, is due to begin today at Arusha, in northern Tanzania. If found guilty, he could face life imprisonment.

No one knows how many members of the Tutsi minority were butchered in and around Taba during the 100-day genocide — estimates are that at least 2,000 men, women and children died at the hands of the Interahamwe, Hutu militias. The real figure is probably much higher. Among those killed at

Ephrem Karangwa: Witness to killings by Interahamwe

the outset of the carnage in Taba were three brothers, Simon Mutijima, Thaddee Uwanyiligira and Jean Chrysostome.

One of the many charges brought against Akayesu is that he ordered and participated in the killings of these three men. Their brother, Ephrem Karangwa, says he witnessed the executions. "The genocide in this commune began on the evening of 18 April," says Mr Karangwa, now mayor of Taba. "That day Akayesu attended a meeting of all the mayors in the prefecture. When he got back to Taba he summoned members of his party [MDR/Power] and went to talk to the Interahamwe. Then the killings began."

First to die was Sylvère Karera, a local teacher. Although at least one of his murderers was handed over to the authorities, no one was arrested for that or any of the subsequent killings which took place while Akayesu held office. Survivors say Akayesu, a former teacher, took particular pleasure in targeting teachers and other educated people.

Akayesu is alleged then to have called a meeting urging the elimination of all Tutsis in the area. Reputedly he made incendiary speeches, urging the population to kill all *inyenzi* (cockroaches), even Tutsi focustees in their mothers' wombs. Survivors say he drew up death lists, distributed weapons and roused his henchmen. He is even said to have recruited children as look-outs, giving them whistles to blow whenever they saw a Tutsi.

"I was warned I was on a blacklist of people to be killed,"

says Mr Karangwa, described in a newly published report of the London-based human rights agency African Rights as "the man Akayesu hunted more than any other".

Mr Karangwa said: "I saw Akayesu and his gang go to my house, looking for me. They looted and burned the house, then began searching the area. My brothers and I split up but Akayesu caught up with them. I saw him shoot my youngest brother dead. Some of his men killed the two left, slashing them with machetes."

A police inspector at the time of the genocide, Mr Karangwa was pursued to a neighbouring commune by the Interahamwe. By May 1994, most Tutsis in Taba were dead.

"Many of my friends are buried here," Mr Karangwa says. "People were murdered brutally, with knives, machetes and clubs. You had to pay money if you wanted to be killed by a bullet. Akayesu did terrible things. He even took part in the killings. If he hadn't given the orders, no one, or hardly anyone, would have died here."

Mr Karangwa has made several statements to the tribunal investigators and hopes the UN trials in Tanzania will be properly conducted. But, like many Rwandans, he feels the guilty should have been tried in their own country. Found guilty by a Rwandan court, Akayesu would face the death penalty.

Only 21 people have been indicted by the UN Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda which, with the tribunal for former Yugoslavia, is the first to attempt to prosecute war crimes in an international forum since the end of the Second World War.

Of the 11 people under arrest, four are being held in Arusha, among them Akayesu who fled Rwanda in June 1994. He was arrested in Zambia last October and was indicted by the tribunal in February.

Akayesu has pleaded not guilty to genocide and crimes against humanity. His lawyers will no doubt attempt to present him as "small fish", one who was only following orders. Yet he held enormous power and in the anarchy of those months which preceded liberation by the Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels, Akayesu was a master of life and death. The fate of Taba's Tutsis was invariably the latter.



Fenced in: Inmates at Gikondo jail, in Kigali ... a handful of the 80,000 prisoners from the genocide still awaiting trial in Rwanda's overcrowded prisons Photograph: Reuters

## Rebels set to take Kabul

RAYMOND WHITAKER

Afghanistan's devastated capital, Kabul, was on the point of falling last night to the Taliban rebel movement, which has captured more than two-thirds of the country since emerging from religious schools in Pakistan two years ago.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government, which seized the city after the disintegration of the Communist regime in 1992, faced collapse. Fighting was reported on the eastern side of Kabul yesterday as the Taliban prepared to deliver the final blow in a series of lightning military successes.

Government jets based at Bagram, to the north of Kabul, screamed low over the city to bomb Taliban positions. The capital's 750,000 people, who have suffered almost continuous bombardment interspersed with street fighting in the past four years, retreated to their homes, leaving streets deserted.

The Taliban is an austere Islamic movement which has forced women to wear the veil, closed girls' schools, banned cinemas and gambling and staged public hangings and amputations in the areas under its control. It has denounced the corruption and brutality of the other Muslim factions which overthrew the Communists four years ago, but did not flinch at launching rocket and artillery attacks on civilians in Kabul when it seized the southern approaches to the city last year.

The government's main military commander, Ahmed Shah Massoud, managed to keep the Taliban forces at bay then, and yesterday his officers were vowing to repulse the latest attack. But Kabul's troops have been demoralised by the rebels' successes. Two weeks ago the movement captured Jalalabad, the main city in eastern Afghanistan, before seizing the strategic town of Sarobi. Exhausted government troops said yesterday that about 100 people were killed on both sides.

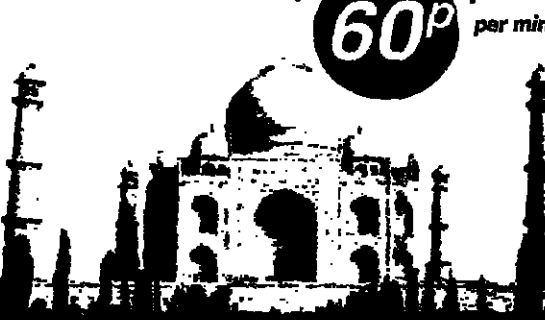
With the rebels attacking Kabul from three directions and fighting taking place within six miles of the presidential palace, United Nations staff reported chaotic scenes. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was preparing to send two planes to Kabul today to evacuate foreigners.

The Taliban's leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, called on troops loyal to Mr Rabbani to stop fighting because their leader was "preparing to flee", and offered an amnesty to anyone who came over to their side.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied claims that it is behind the movement.

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Ref. No. 4217

## international

Inquiry begins into guns for cocaine allegation

## Black rage over CIA drug scam

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

The CIA is again on the defensive, America's politicians are uneasy, and the country's black community is in uproar over allegations that the intelligence agency was involved in a cocaine-trafficking scheme in Los Angeles in the 1980s, to help finance the CIA-supported Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

The thrust of the charges is not new, but the sheer detail and documentation contained in a ground-breaking exposé by the *San Jose Mercury News* last month are. Bombarded by demands from black leaders and senior California politicians, the CIA and the Justice Department have been forced to begin investigations into an affair which, if confirmed, would saddle the agency with at least partial responsibility for starting the crack cocaine epidemic which ravages ghetto America to this day.

According to the *Mercury News*, two Nicaraguan cocaine dealers, Danilo Blanton and Norwin Meneses, with the help of CIA agents, smuggled large quantities of cocaine into the US, much of which was sold to a Los Angeles crack dealer called "Freeway" Rick Ross,

who distributed it to street gangs like the Crips and Bloods. Proceeds are said to have been used to finance Nicaragua's right-wing Contra movement, which was strongly supported by the Reagan/Bush administration in an attempt to unseat the Sandinista leadership.

Officially the charges have been categorically denied, and John Deutch, the CIA director, says an internal probe several years ago cleared his agency of involvement. But the *Mercury News* claims local investigations into the LA drug ring were impeded by other federal agencies, and this week a former DEA official declared he had evidence that the Contras were indeed smuggling cocaine to finance arms purchases.

The official, Celerino Castillo, says he told the DEA of Contra drug flights in 1985 and 1986, but was informed by superiors that the flights were approved by the White House.

Black leaders have reacted with bitterness and outrage. A string of protest rallies led on Monday to the arrest of the head of the predominantly black Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the entertainer Dick Gregory for staging an illegal demonstration outside DEA headquarters.

Most striking, though, has been the sense of victimisation that the reports have fuelled throughout black America, and the new lease of life for conspiracy theories - heavily promulgated on the Internet - that crack was introduced as part of deliberate attack on poor inner-city neighbourhoods, carried out by a white government. Such suspicions have been around for years; the evidence accumulated by the *Mercury News* makes them even harder to disbelieve entirely.

Even if they are ultimately shown to be unfounded, the short-term political ramifications could affect the election. Ostensibly, the loser is Bob Dole, who has sought to revive his floundering candidacy by pointing to a surge in teenage drug use since President Bill Clinton took office. Now he must cope with claims that a Republican administration was actually involved in drug-dealing.

But Mr Clinton has little reason to gloat. The allegations have much in common with the saga of the *Mena* air base in western Arkansas, through which, if Mr Clinton's foes are to be believed, the CIA and the Contras smuggled drugs into the US with the connivance of the state's then governor.



Mother Teresa is transported yesterday from Woodlands Nursing home in Calcutta, where she was admitted after a fall, to Bellevue Clinic for further tests. Photograph: AFP

## significant shorts

## 10 die in air crash off Netherlands

At least 10 people were killed when a Dakota aircraft crashed into the North Sea yesterday. The coastguard said a DC-3 propeller-powered Dakota aircraft carrying 35 passengers had crashed into the North Sea 15 km (10 miles) north-east of the northern Dutch town of Den Helder.

Reuter - Amsterdam

## South Korean 'spied on US'

A US Navy civilian intelligence analyst was charged with passing more than two dozen secret documents to South Korea, a US ally. South Korean native Robert Chaegon Kim, of Sterling, Virginia, handed over information classified "secret" and "top secret", to Back Dong-Il, a naval attaché for the South Korean government, an affidavit released in US District Court said. A Presidential spokesman, Mike McCurry, said: "Relations between the United States and the Republic of Korea are strong and of the nature that they can endure any alleged wrongdoing by an individual." AP - Alexandria

## Nato holds steady course with Russia

With President Boris Yeltsin gravely ill, Western allies agreed it is essential for Nato to remain "predictable" so as not to play into the hands of his opponents. Nato defence ministers considered the possibility of Mr Yeltsin not serving out his second term and the consequences of that for Nato's already sensitive relations with Russia. One official said the US Defense Secretary, William Perry, and his Nato colleagues were keen not to provide ammunition to Yeltsin opponents who want Russia to be tougher on Nato and its plans to take in East European nations in the years ahead. AP - Bergen

## Suu Kyi 'to be charged soon'

A state-run newspaper said Burma's military government will soon charge democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi with political crimes. Ms Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has already spent six years under house arrest for her role in leading Burma's democracy movement. The military recently said she has been aiding exiled dissident groups in a plot to topple the government. "In the not too distant future she will be accused as a political criminal," the *New Light of Myanmar* said. AP - Rangoon

## Army moves on Tigers

Sri Lankan troops have killed or wounded more than 500 Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the first three days of a fresh offensive against the rebels' northern stronghold, a military spokesman said. "The aim of this operation is to draw and kill as many terrorists as possible," Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said. Reuter - Colombo

## Algeria adopts English

Algeria, a former French colony, has ordered its schools to begin teaching English instead of French as the top foreign language. Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia's edict is effective immediately for the 1996-97 school year, although it mainly affects university students. Arabic is Algeria's official language. AP - Algiers

## Police shoot at protesters

Police in Armenia fired at demonstrators rallying for a third day to protest against election results giving President Levon Ter-Petrosyan five more years in office. Thousands of Armenians broke through a fence around parliament and police fired shots to disperse them. Protesters, who had surrounded parliament as opposition leader, Vazgen Manukyan, held talks with election officials, ran for cover when riot police marched on them shooting into the air. Reuter - Yerevan

## No refuge for wounded elk

Police shot dead an elk which had wandered into an empty fourth-floor flat, terrifying residents. The elk took refuge in the flat after being wounded by hunters in a nearby forest. Police tried to drag the beast out of the flat but when that failed they tried to find a specialist to tranquillise the elk. Unable to find one, they finally shot it dead. AP - Vilnius

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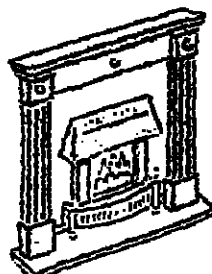
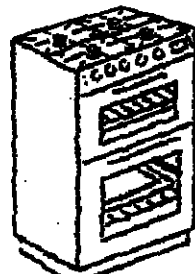
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# Workfare with dignity, not gimmickry, please

Workfare is fair, according to a majority of taxpayers. Why shouldn't the unemployed, especially the long-term unemployed, be obliged to do something useful in return for their benefits? The Conservative Party clearly agrees. It plans to include proposals for workfare in its election manifesto.

But we should tread carefully. Well executed, workfare can be effective and worthwhile. The principle that those who receive community support incur obligations is right. If support for the unemployed includes real opportunities to train and improve their chances of getting jobs, then the state can reasonably insist that they should take up one of these options in return for financial support. Badly executed, however, workfare could wind up wasting taxpayers' money, and accentuating the demoralisation and frustration already felt among unemployed people. That, in turn, would undermine public faith in the ability of government to lift people out of the cycle of decline that so often accompanies long periods out of work. There is a fine line between workfare that works and is genuinely fair, and workfare that is disastrous and morally wrong. As yet we cannot tell on which side the Conservatives' new proposals would fall – but we can set out the principles that their proposals, as well as those emerging from New Labour, should be measured against.

For decades the very mention of "workfare" has sent shivers down liberal spines. We imagine chain gangs of miserable men, shoulders bowed, swinging pick-axes pointlessly against rocks. Or we think of bored youths pulling bicycles out of deserted canals, only for their mates to chuck them back in again at the weekend. Workfare, we fear, is punishing those who already struggle to find work, by sentencing them to futile labour on pain of penalty.

Such qualms are justified. Penalising people for something that is not their fault will not improve anyone's lot. However, insisting that the unemployed fulfil certain conditions in exchange for benefits does not necessarily involve demeaning punishment. In fact it could be the establishment of an honourable reciprocal relationship between the Government and the unemployed. Allowing people to take from society indefinitely without demanding anything in return is to fail to respect them as citizens, and to treat them as helpless victims. Many of the unemployed are desperate to do something useful, and would be reassured to feel they were earning the giro they get at the end of each week.

The critical question is how much we can reasonably demand of the unemployed in return for their weekly benefit. Forcing them to do the grubby jobs, the boring, meaningless ones that no one else will do, may simply reinforce

the slide in their self-esteem, and then in their future employability. Nor is it reasonable to demand that the unemployed waste their time in meaningless activity, just to prove that they are not lazy or fraudulent.

The fact that workfare would cut down on fraud and encourage those who are merely lazy to get jobs is a welcome bonus. But it is insufficient justification for the programme.

However, a well designed workfare programme could provide the long-term unemployed with exactly the kind of help they need to get back into work. If the Conservatives are proposing

real help to make the unemployed more employable, they will be justified in demanding that the unemployed participate in exchange for continued financial support. The longer people are out of work, the harder it becomes for them to find new jobs – perhaps because they are unskilled, perhaps because they have become stigmatised by unemployment, and perhaps because they have become dejected, and detached from the world of work.

In such circumstances, government intervention may be essential to give them a chance of getting a job. A good welfare programme would help the

unskilled train, and help the long-term unemployed re-establish a working routine through high-quality work placements or through wage subsidies for jobs in the private sector. Pilot schemes operated by government and the voluntary sector across the country have proven promising in levering the long-term unemployed back to work.

If the Conservatives have really embraced these principles, the turnaround in their approach to unemployment is startling. It means they have acknowledged that the market alone cannot deliver the jobs that the unemployed need. The risk, however, is that the Government's commitment to the welfare of the long-term unemployed is half-hearted. Practising workfare properly will prove expensive.

If this is a gimmick to prove tough on fraudsters and slackers, and to cut the numbers on the dole, it will backfire. Make-work schemes that fail to make the unemployed more employable are not only a waste of time; they cruelly raise hopes and then dash them. The unemployed know that their work is under-valued, and so they become even more demoralised. Whatever the next government decides to do about the long-term unemployed, the stakes are high. Workfare in whatever form will not only affect the welfare of those on the dole; it also holds the potential to legitimise or undermine public support for the welfare state.

If taxpayers can be convinced that those on the dole are striving and being encouraged to find work, they will be much happier about funding all those benefits. But if, instead, a future government goes in for another round of youth training schemes and community programmes that fritter public money and stoke up frustration, the Government would risk undermining public support for state intervention even further. If we are going to do it, we had better do it well.

## Girth breeds growth

Our Rome correspondent reports today that Italy is succumbing to Anglo-Saxon concern about body-weight. The movement is of a piece with Italy's brave attempts at fiscal restraint, part of its effort to meet the Maastricht criteria for European Monetary Union. But is dieting necessarily associated with control of the public finances? Look at Chancellor Kohl, or our very own Chancellor Clarke and his not insubstantial shadow, Gordon Brown. Didn't we have more sense of Lawson substance in the old days, before he wasted away? At a tight moment in monetary affairs, we'd prefer a man of girth presiding over the books.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Unique peril of engineered food crops

Sir: I write in an effort to dispel the common myth that the use of genetic engineering to produce new varieties of crops and farm animals is a natural extension of traditional cross-breeding methods (Suzanne Moore, 20 September; J Stocker, letter, 23 September).

In contrast to traditional methods, genetic engineering involves transfer of genetic material between totally unrelated organisms. Genes from viruses, bacteria, animals as well as unrelated plants have been engineered into crops. This circumvents natural species barriers and brings about combinations of genes that would never occur naturally.

This could be hailed simply as yet another great advance for modern agriculture if it wasn't that this is an imperfect technology with inherent dangers. The generation of genetically modified ("transgenic") plants and animals not only involves the use of artificial genetic combinations (such as parts of plant viruses linked to bacterial genes), but also its random splicing into the DNA of the host organism. This gives rise to an unpredictable component with regard to the functioning of both the host and introduced gene unit. (Normal gene control is preserved during cross-breeding of closely related species).

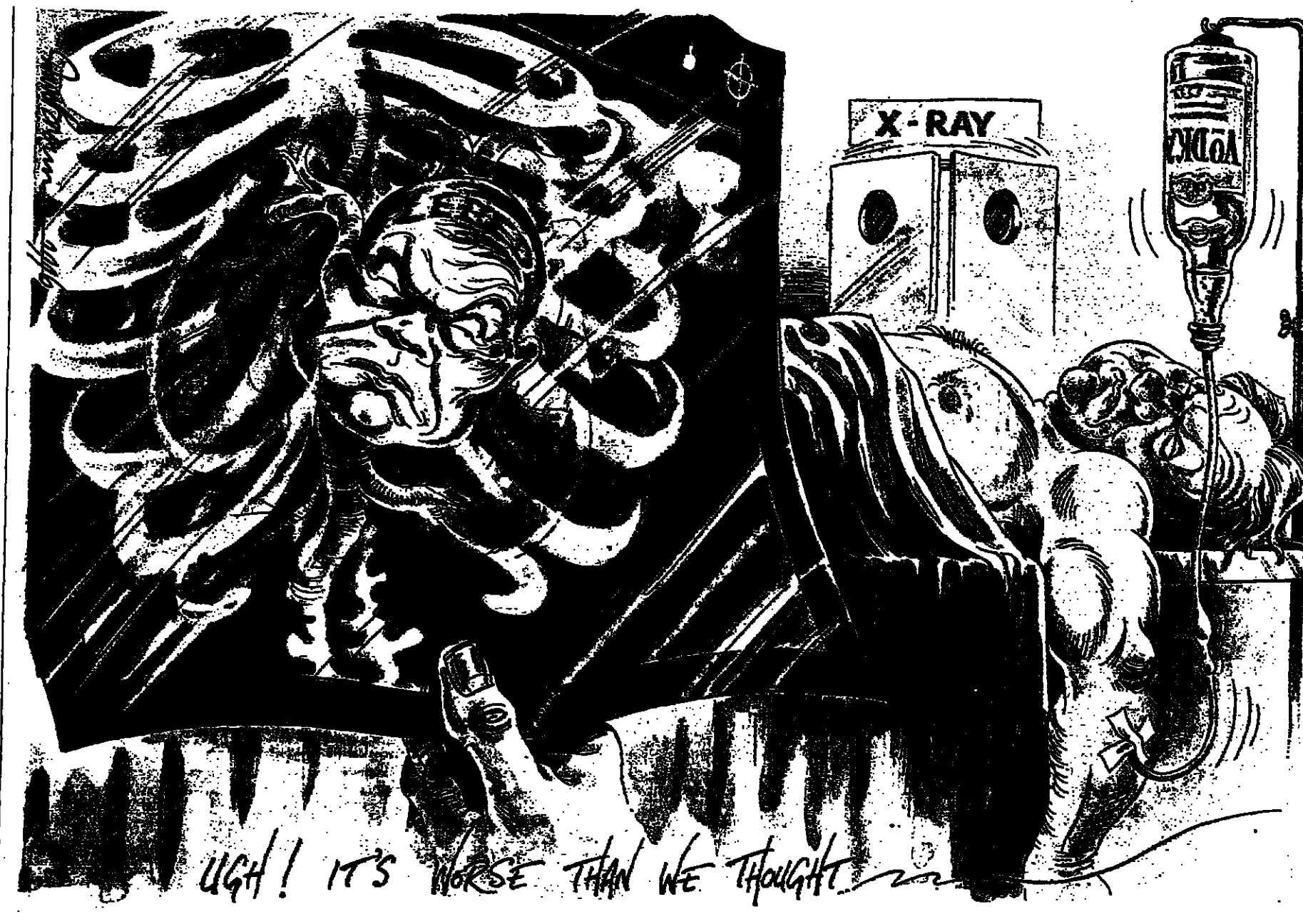
Furthermore, it is assumed that the protein product of the newly introduced gene will function in exactly the same way as it does in its native host, which frequently will not be the case. It is therefore not surprising to find that genetic engineering can result not only in reduced nutritional value but also in the unexpected production of novel toxins and allergens. It is the unpredictability of these outcomes that is most worrying. This argues strongly for general toxicity testing, perhaps something similar to that used for pharmaceuticals, and full labelling for all of these products. This will also allow the consumer to make an informed choice and truly "vote with their supermarket trolley" (leading article, 20 September).

Given that we have safe natural alternatives we should not be surprised to find that the Prince of Wales and others questioning the use of this technology, since once out in the field genetic pollution cannot be cleaned up and will be passed on to all future generations. Dr MICHAEL ANTONIOU, Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology, London SE1

### A marriage to the Church

Sir: Is Andrew Brown ("A modest proposal for errant priests", 25 September) really surprised that Catholics are very sensitive to statements such as "Priests and bishops don't believe what they teach sexually"? Do the two letters about several priests who have not remained celibate genuinely justify your headline, "Celibacy does not denote holiness", on the accompanying Letters page?

The Catholic Church chooses her ordinands from men who have freely chosen to be what Jesus called "those who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 23:12) and not, like Origen, those



### Norris: a former lover writes

Sir: Steven Norris, serial adulterer ("Unrepentant Norris romps and tells", 24 September), seems to be delightfully pleased with himself and proud to tell the world about his cruel behaviour. The fact that he kept his long-suffering wife, Vicky, informed of his whereabouts only serves to underline his inability to understand others' sensibilities.

None of us was stupid or glib, but we were impressed by his kindness, humour and ability to juggle a career and private life. We all believed that we were the most important thing in his life. Indeed, he often said that he wished to spend the rest of his life with me. My riposte to this was: "The rest of my life started some time ago."

His current ungentlemanly attitude simply astounds me; four of the five women in his life chose not to speak about their time with him, probably because we all, misguidedly, view him with some residual affection. Although he has been largely complimentary about us all, I fail to see why he has to embarrass them by bringing them into the limelight.

My sympathies are with Vicky, who has lived with this nightmare for so many years, watching the goalposts to see where they move to next. LYNN R TAYLOR, Wiltshire

### Elderly women in poverty

Sir: John Rentoul is right (report, 23 September). Pensions policy is a key issue for conference debate.

We have to ensure that everyone is able to build a decent, secure second-tier pension that will float them off poverty in old age. That will take time to come through. But, and this is too easily overlooked, we have an immediate problem which we must address now: 700,000 pensioners, most of them women, are living in deep poverty.

Because they are elderly, because they are women, because they are retired, they have become invisible. Yet they have no private pension, no Serps, no savings, no rights to earmarking or pension-splitting, nothing. They fall, on average, £14 a week below the poverty line. How do they survive? By turning off the heating, by not eating properly, by never going out.

Our proposals to deliver a pension entitlement to our poorest pensioners must be our highest priority. We owe it to them, in every sense.

PATRICIA HOLLIS (Baroness Hollis of Heigham) Labour Social Security Spokesperson House of Lords London SW1

### Young Cary

Sir: I am surprised to see your reviewer Christopher Bray ("Educating Archie", 21 September) still accepting that nonsense about Cary Grant being born "to a poor working-class household".

The area of Bristol in which he was born in 1904 was at that time a respectable middle-class area. Biographers publish photos of him as a child which certainly do not reveal poverty – eg, in fancy dress, which is not a sign of poverty in pre-1914 England. The school from which he was expelled was a fee-paying one. Once again Hollywood hype proves more interesting than the truth. S J WHITE, Patchway, Avon

proposals on the unlicensed and misused use of electric vehicles on cycle paths by those 13 years and over are clearly suspect, but the prospect of low-impact, low-speed vehicles replacing those which make a misery of our public spaces does deserve some consideration. SIMON BANNISTER, London N16

### Gate to Britain is plain scruffy

Sir: In retirement I often take a stroll around central London. This recently included a visit to Waterloo station – the new point of entry for continental visitors.

It always has been scruffy outside, but I now find it worse than ever. As well as having to avoid traffic, particularly when coming out of the main exit, the visitor is confronted with a maze of graffiti-strewn tunnels and, at present, what appears to be the smell of sewage work.

I feel thoroughly embarrassed for any Eurostar visitors. R JONES, Brentwood, Essex

### Country cast list

Sir: Further to the letters you have published on people with countries named after them, there are the Emperor Chin (China), Philip II (Philippines), Ibn Saud (Saudi Arabia) and St Dominic (the Dominican Republic and Dominica). If empires were included, Othman and Romulus could be added to the list. C J R ESDALE, London SW19

### TECs' report to Shephard

Sir: The claim in your article "Youth trainers offer ministers political help" (24 September) that the TEC National Council has offered political help to the Government in return for budgetary support is false.

Your article quotes selectively from an early draft of a document which has not in fact been sent to the Secretary of State. The council has written recently to Mrs Shephard and the two key statements to which you object do not appear in the final correspondence. Nowhere in that letter does the council speak of "the failure of the school system", or of TECs seeking to "confound Opposition claims" on anything.

Nor does the council complain to the Secretary of State about previous budget levels – the letter merely argues that enrolments in TEC programmes are increasing and we wish to be sure that TECs can meet this growing demand.

TECs have quite properly communicated to the Secretary of State the latest performance figures on their programmes of work, and do also intend to see that those performance figures are widely disseminated to the public. This is not electoral strategy – it is simply that at this time of year the continued performance data for 1995-96 become available, and the first-quarter results for 1996-97 are known. If TECs are to be accountable to their communities – an issue *The Independent* supports

### TECs' report to Shephard

Sir: When a Catholic priest, or even bishop, is known to have consorted with a woman, all opprobrium is heaped on him. No one says that she is at least equally responsible.

Every Catholic woman should be aware that a priest is a man dedicated to God, and should maintain the same reserve that she would have in dealing with another woman's husband. MARY A LYNCH, London W6

### Morse first name revealed at bank

Sir: In response to your piece concerning the Christian name of Colin Dexter's Chief Inspector Morse ("Endeavour is answer to Morse code", 24 September), I wish to correct the writer as to the occasion when the clue to his first name was given.

The only clue given on television was in the episode entitled "Masonic Mysteries" (first broadcast on 24 January, 1990), when £99,999.99 was transferred into Morse's account with the West Sussex Savings Bank. The computer screen identifies the account as in the name of "E. Morse".

The clue was not given, as stated, on a bed chart in a hospital. Inspector Morse has not been hospitalised in any of the 30 televised episodes so far, and one hopes that this will remain the case in the 31st episode currently in production. MATTHEW J HOWARD, Sturton by Stow, Lincolnshire



## essay

At 25, the environmental pressure group is beginning to realise that its noisy anti-industry campaigns could be misguided, that it is the customer, as much as the capitalist, who is actually failing the environment.

By Richard D North



## Greenpeace, please grow up!

Twenty-five years after the founding of Greenpeace as a direct action group, its contemporary campaigners proclaim they are into solutions and dialogue – or are they?

Yesterday, more than 100 of the country's leading firms sent senior people to a conference organised by Greenpeace. The event was held in a Marriott hotel off Oxford Street, and with tickets at £440.60 a throw, the executives from such traditional adversaries of Greenpeace as Shell, ICI and Dow Chemical were responding to an invitation that the organisers hoped – and implied – they couldn't refuse.

Greenpeace has always been brilliant at being rugged, but also at being chic and glamorous. Courage and charisma have been its hallmarks. It is

now adding a degree of corporate savvy, in a Branson or a Roddick sort of way. "Forewarned is forearmed," said the flyer, as flyers for management conferences will. But Greenpeace's silky come-on had an element of blackmail – greenmail, anyway – about it.

Privately, several delegates said they had not really come in the hope of learning what bits of the corporate world Greenpeace would attack next (although they were told that the oil industry's planned development off Shetland would be a target). From the floor, delegates obviously wanting the promised dialogue repeatedly asked whether Greenpeace really would discuss the details of its objections to various industries. They were parried with an ease that has 25 years experience behind it.

And yet, something quite

big is happening to the organisation. And the industry types gathered to hear it from the horses' mouth.

The genesis of the new Greenpeace is quite recent. In the early Nineties, the group commissioned Philip Gould, image-maker to new Labour, to assess what a radical campaign group should look like as it approached its quarter century (and, they might have added, after half a century at least of vigorous action by officialdom to clean up the environment). Beware, wrote Gould, that your extremism will condemn you to the fringes of the national debate, while any move from radicalism risks alienating your core supporters.

The message was that Greenpeace could not usefully rely solely on nay-saying. The public wanted solutions. Greenpeace in Germany had already

encouraged a formerly East German plant to offer fridges in which the notoriously ozone-damaging CFCs were replaced by relatively benign hydrocarbon gases, such as butane and propane. It is largely forgotten that CFCs were designed as a non-explosive alternative to inflammable hydrocarbons, just as it is forgotten that domestic fridges need never vent their CFCs. Nor does it much matter: hydrocarbon fridges can be made to work very well and have since begun to catch on with the rest of the industry.

Greenpeace feels able to claim much of the credit of sharing mainstream manufacturers. British fridge manufacturers happily concede that Greenpeace was useful in encouraging the switch, though in private they note that since CFCs were about to be banned, as were some of the alternatives, the result would have been the same with or without the Greenpeace initiative.

It is one of the odd features of Greenpeace's relationship with businesses that firms, at least for now, allow the campaigners their triumphalism, while executives queue up to munch humble pie. The executives appear to hope that extending a flow of mostly unreciprocated courtesies to their old adversary may somehow civilise the campaigners.

They should beware, however. Chris Rose, the campaigns director, probably the most intel-

ligent hands-on environmentalist in the country, has for a year or so been talking about "enforced solutions". The group could be positive, but remain vigorous. As the flyer for yesterday's conference rhetorically asked, "Why does Greenpeace believe that solutions campaigning can be more confrontational than blocking your pipeline or disrupting your AGM?"

The answer, Rose said yesterday, is that industry fears losing its markets even more than having its pipes blocked. Greenpeace believes that it can still be seen to be the repository of forceful virtue, bouncing clumsy industry out of its self-seeking complacency. It can, it hopes, remain – or at least seem – radical. For years, industry and politicians wasted energy in pursuing the idea that this must be a left-wing group. That wasn't it at all: Greenpeace is committed to the chivalric defence of nature in the face of industrial rape. Its extraordinary appeal depends on its knightly courage and even innocence.

But it also depends on being highly selective of facts, as well as of targets. For years, most scientists involved with environmental issues, and the overwhelming majority of legislators and business, thought Greenpeace's handling of evidence was at least cavalier. Green-

peace merely responded: "They would, wouldn't they?"

The group now faces a more severe test. One of the founding fathers of British environmentalism is Richard Sandbrook, who was crucial to the formation of Friends of the Earth in England 25 years ago. Moving on, in 1975, to develop the ideas of Barbara Ward, an *Economist* writer, Sandbrook became director of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), which tries to work out how human development needs can be fulfilled alongside environmental well-being.

Until now deliberately low-key, and prone to a sort of green political correctness, the IIED has recently completed the first all-embracing assessment of the paper industry – from forest to waste bin. It is a ground-breaking piece of work of considerable importance because it asserts that many deeply-held green ideas are plain wrong.

The study was paid for by the paper industry, but the IIED had far more to lose by being proved shallow or misinformed than it did by losing a corporate client. So the report carries conviction when it endorses plantation forestry: when it insists that no one has made a convincing case against the use of chlorine in paper bleaching; and when it claims that recycling paper often will not be the best environmental option.

while municipal incineration with energy recovery may well be. The clear implication is that the matter-of-fact thinking of industrialists and their regulators is more or less on track and that much "environmentalism" is misguided.

Friends of the Earth was stung to denounce it. One wonders how long it can allow Sandbrook to be a trustee, granted the horror it has expressed at one of his proudest works. Jonathan Porritt, an occasional realist these days, endorsed the report's approach. Greenpeace – never one to launch itself into debates – has stayed silent.

Sandbrook has no desire to pick a fight with Greenpeace. But he is to be found on the same conference circuit as Rose, where Sandbrook is sometimes engagingly frank about the core of environmentalist absolutism. "We were spoilt baby boomers" he tells audiences. "We went through university believing that one should protest, and then protest some more." If there was one core belief among the environmentalists of the time, he tells businessmen, it was "Bugger the market".

He is great fun, which few environmentalists manage to be. But his message is serious. Poor people in poor countries need paper now, and will need a lot more as they get hold of the right to read and the right to write. Purism doesn't much

help them, especially as its main effect is to raise prices.

There is an intellectual, or at any rate a cultural, point to be made, too. Sandbrook has doubts about Greenpeace's proclaimed desire for dialogue – a declared, if unrealised, aim of yesterday's event. The real world, he suggests, wrestles with such facts as it can garner, and works its trade-offs between the competing desires to get and spend, and to keep nature pristine. Greenpeace's moral triumphalism, and (Sandbrook notes wryly) its market niche, depend on an intellectual virginity that a crueler person might risk calling a vacuum.

There is, to be sure, a new wave of thinking that aims to come to rescue the likes of Greenpeace. At Lancaster University, Robin Grove-White, an erstwhile TV satire writer and director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England in the Eighties, is combining a board membership of Greenpeace with the refinement of a new line of argument which the EU, among others, is funding. Sometimes called Post Normal Science, this suggests that reductionist science (that is, the sort everyone's been doing since man first elevated himself above the apes) is deeply flawed when it comes to the environment.

He told yesterday's conference that "official" science fails to take account of people's deeply felt values; and that failure has led to scientific endorsement for the eating of beef while BSE raged, and the idea of dumping the Brent Spar in the Atlantic. Grove-White is very bright and very serious, and his work may help solicitors to handle animal rights, or roads protesters, and their non-negotiable agendas. What's less clear is whether there is anything really wrong with the science which has so successfully made us rich and mostly rather safe.

Meantime, Greenpeace has yet to deal with a very real difficulty at the heart of its campaigning. For years, it has inveighed against industry and been popular as it did so. Now that it is dealing in solutions, its campaigners will soon have to understand that industry does what its customers want.

Greenpeace Germany last month launched the design for a low-energy car. The car industry said the car was interesting but not revolutionary. Anyone could have knocked one up. It was not a world capitalist conspiracy that kept such a car of the road, but consumer indifference.

In short, Greenpeace's solution option may prove more challenging for the campaigners than for the businessmen it has harassed and harangued. Supporters may like the group less when it proclaims that it is the customer as much as the capitalist that fails the environment. And Greenpeace may find that one cannot talk about solutions and dialogue without occasionally listening to people who make things.

Greenpeace, at 25, may at last have lost its virginity.

## Take a day trip to France for £10



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Don't miss Token 1 in this Saturday's Independent

THE INDEPENDENT

## If they love it in Berne, it's time for a rethink



Miles Kingdon

I think it is in Madagascar that the country people periodically dig up their dead and involve them in daily life for a while, before reinterring them. They have the same idea in this country, which is why *Punch* magazine has come back from the dead for a time. But the people who have the idea most often are those old folk at the BBC.

They disinter old Hancock Half Hours or old panel game ideas, shake off the earth and pebbles sticking to them, and put them back on prime time radio or TV, which explains

why *Call My Bluff* is back on our screens at lunchtime during the week and why *SI Pirellman* is on Radio 4 at the halcyon 8.40am slot, and why Gerry Anderson is back in *Gerry's Bar*...

I switched on my TV at lunchtime the other day just to convince myself that *Call My Bluff* was really back again, and there it was, twinkling away at Pebble Mill, with Alan Coren and Sandi Toksvig playing the parts of the team captains, and the random collection of maladroit and verbose semi-celebrities being played by a random collection of mal-

adroit and verbose semi-celebrities. I almost said, with Alan Coren and Sandi Toksvig playing the parts of Frank Muir and Patrick Campbell, but that would be unfair. For a start, nobody could replace those two. For a second lap, Coren and Toksvig are their own people, and do things differently – they obviously have a good rapport, which they use to be pleasantly rude to each other, when they would clearly much rather be rude to some of the long-winded guests on either side of them.

هكذا من الأصل



diary

I aimed at their bodies.  
'Eat lead,'  
I cried

john walsh

I spent the other weekend at a house party in rural Nottinghamshire: heartbreakingly beautiful women, wet dogs, badminton lawns, wines that enfolded you in a soft embrace, east wing, west wing, Scarlett on the spinet, mauve cocktail cigarettes, shiny mahogany commodes in the 14th bedroom and scrambled eggs à la Escottier in the silver chafing dish. It was bliss in a specifically English way. And over the two-and-a-half days I turned into a psychopath.

On the first evening, as I went to retrieve something from the car, I spied an alarming figure emerging through the trees. It was our host, a mild-mannered philosopher, the gentlest chap you could meet, and he carried a gun – a .22 rifle with telescopic sight, night-beam and silencer. A sniper's gun, a ghastly, violent object whose sole purpose was the imminent dispatch of living things. He had, he said, been shooting rabbits which were vermin. Rupert, I said, I'm appalled. How could you – a humanist, a neo-Platonist, – even contemplate...?

So we argued awhile about the ethics of firearms (he said banning handguns would solve the problem; rifles didn't count) and went to dinner. Lots of Chateau Lynch-Bages '68, port, odiferous cheeses, coffee in the drawing room and Andrew said: "It's midnight. Coming for a stroll? We could take the rifle if that's all right with you..." Grudgingly I joined in, but purely as the voice of liberal-humanist decency. I represented the Rabbittendency. I was only there to see fair play.

It all changed in 15 minutes. Not 200 yards across the greenward, I said, "Let me have a look at that," and was suddenly clutching the obscene firearm like Robert de Niro in his woolly hat. The telescopic sight focused in and out of small brown bottles playing jump-the-deadlies. The cross-hairs beckoned. A hunter's moon obligingly fingered the trees. "That's your corner," blurted Rupert. "There's always stacks of the little blighters." I flattened myself against a tree, brought the sight to my eye, switched on the night beam and swung round: "Eat lead, dearth, motherf..."

When the smoke cleared, I had fired 10 viciously explosive rounds in a deadly snarl, killed 128 rabbits, ricocheted the gate, a "Keep Out" sign and a Dutch barn (at least that's what I thought), sent a cloud of rabbits like an Independent Day shadow over the whole county, woken all the slumbering brigadiers of Nottingham and lost all credibility with Friends of the Earth. Friend, stricken with remorse. Yesterday I was St Francis, now I was the greenball in *Desperado*. What was happening to me?

I got worse. A week later I was in Hastings on a family seaside jaunt. My son, who is five, said he wanted to look at a lovely toy and arrow in a shop window. Ah, bless him. And there was this little toy shop?

Just down this street... but it wasn't a toy shop. It was the Hastings Arms Company, a spectacular arsenal of knives, swords, kung fu tails, axes, archery equipment and crossbows. In charge was a vast and threatening goth called Bill, whose bald head and forked beard marked him out as the obvious model for a dozen Sword and Sorcery book-jackets featuring a chap called Tharg from the planet Zorbo. He introduced me to the range of swords, bloody great things with nicknames: "Barbarian", "Claymore", "Excalibur", "Lowengrin", more worryingly, "Annihilator", and less worryingly, "Alfonso" (in homage to a famously violent Italian waiter?). "Seen these, 'ave yer?" Bill asked abruptly, waving a catalogue whose pages were filled with crossbows, trisling with bolts and quivers. Suddenly I was back watching William Tell played on television by Conrad Phillips when I was Max's age, enraptured by the post-Christian image of a lethal crucifix. I must get one, I thought, I simply must. There's no harm in them... Then I looked up. The fantasy-comic Bill was brandishing a metre-long, twin-bladed battleaxe and bringing it down, very slowly, on his forehead, for the amusement of local bikers. I left the shop. Jesus, that was close. Another mid-life crisis narrowly averted.

"His plays are elliptical," says Michael Billington of Harold Pinter, whose biography he has written. "They require his audience to use their imagination." So do his *obiter dicta*. A recent profile of the Great Pauser quotes the observation: "Any writer who pops his head over the trenches and dares to speak in this country is placed outside the pale." Now there's a whole *swaguard* of mixed metaphors and allusions – battlements, parapets, trenches, Oscar Wilde, Cromwell, western Ireland, colonial rule, Jewish ghettos... a miniature history of conflict and injustice in 21 words.

The neighbours are up in arms in my Dulwich backyard, where Railtrack, owner of the railway at the end of our garden, has started chopping down trees. Fearing an autumn of crap excuses about "leaves on the track" it has decided to total any arboreal flora up to 10 metres from the line. Dulwich Estates, normally the most intrusive throng of local bureaucrats outside a Swiss canton, say they're not bothered. But the prospect of having to look out on a denuded embankment, hear the clash of the Paris-bound Eurostar without a softening baffle of trees, and witness the destruction of beech, ash and sycamore is too much for sensitive types like us. So we're lobbying Trisa Jowell, the local MP, and trying to get the Railtrack villains to talk to us before they send in the chainsaws. The whole thing is pure Chekhov, but the spirit of *Les Misérables* hovers eerily overhead. To the barricades!

# The ugly truth that stalks our sexual fantasies

**M**y Stalker Hell by Pammi Giri", says *The Sun's* headline. Beneath is a picture of "lovely" Perry Southall, 20, wearing a PVC miniskirt and boots. Ms Southall, it ought to be explained, is Pammi Giri, as far as *The Sun* is concerned, because of her striking resemblance to Pamela Anderson, an actress. She was stalked for eight months by a man who was finally convicted on two assault charges – the jury accepted that she had been psychologically scarred.

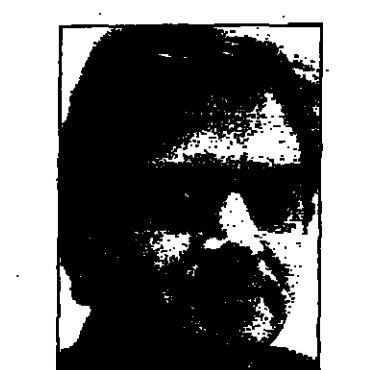
Meanwhile, Doreen Holt told delegates at the Liberal Democrat conference of the way her daughter's life had been devastated by a man who stalked her for five years. Moved by the speech, the conference voted overwhelmingly to make stalking a criminal offence. The judge at the trial of Clarence Morris, the stalker of Ms Southall, also called for legislation.

Plus, of course, there have been some high-profile Hollywood cases of stalkers-to-the-stars. One way or another, stalking appears to have crept furtively on to *The Agenda*. Legally, one can see the point. Being obsessively stalked must be

appalling and anybody who causes such anxiety and misery ought, on the face of it, to be prosecutable. But this is tricky. At what point would a certain pattern of behaviour become stalking? And what is wrong with stalking if no threats are made and no harm is done? Well, obviously quite a lot, but once you create offences defined by the subjective response of the victim, it becomes difficult to know either where to stop, or what would constitute evidence. And, after all, Clarence Morris was convicted, so the present law seems to be fairly usable.

But the current fascination with stalking is not really about the law; it is about totems and taboos. The big totem is sex. The big taboo is bad sex. Penny Southall, because of her resemblance to a tabloid heroine, is good sex. Clarence Morris, because he turned up at the dental surgery where she worked wearing Y-fronts outside his trousers, is bad sex.

This distinction is crucial to the functioning of a society that thinks of itself as liberated but is, in fact, more elaborately enchained than ever. Sex sells things very successfully so there are big vested interests involved in promoting sex. Advertising, newspapers,



Bryan Appleyard

television and films all now routinely use material that, 50 years ago, would have been regarded as hard pornography. And all of this sex is good, healthy and fun, an essential part of contemporary identity, because, if it weren't, it would not sell the cars, newspapers, whatever.

But, liberated as all this may seem, it has to be held together by some highly puritanical injunctions. The tabloids, for example, will reserve the

right to expose any sufficiently prominent adulterer, especially if there is anything "kinky" involved. Such a "love rat" or "pervert" is somehow deemed to offend against the totem of good sex, celebrated elsewhere in the paper by bare-breasted models and sex advice columns and features.

The glaring discontinuity arises from the attempt simultaneously to regard sex both as a simple appetite and as an emotional and moral force. The first decorates the culture, the second gives it something to talk about.

On the one hand there is the fantasy world of good, clean sex between attractive young people; on the other, the real world of the old, ugly, infirm or just averagely attractive individuals for whom sex is never simple.

The idea that the fantasy world may have some adverse impact on the real world is not something the fantasists like to think about. David Stanton, Morris's barrister, tried to defend his client by, effectively, saying that Southall had only herself to blame because of the way she looked and dressed. This was a stupid move. Clearly Stanton's ill-judged words implied a connection between the Pamela Anderson fantasy and

the grubby reality of the stalker. But, of course, all sane people know the connection is real enough. It is inevitable that inadequate people are going to be aroused to unacceptable extremes by the daily deluge of images of an inhumanly perfect sexuality. The stalker is just somebody who tries to live out the fantasy he is being sold. This doesn't make him any less guilty. But it should make some people think carefully about the flagrant lie that sex is a simple physical appetite.

So stalking is on *The Agenda* precisely because it is an activity that seems to be a direct response to the world of fantasy sex in which we all now live. The stalker is at a distance, looking, drawing constant attention to his victim as pure surface, a mere fantasy image. He provokes outrage because his presence implies that his victim can be reduced to a version of the communal sexual fantasy by threatening to make it real.

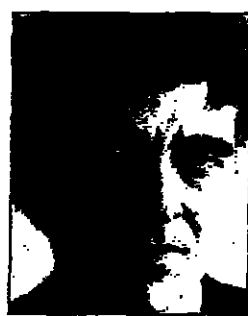
It is hard to imagine a neater image of the contemporary experience than this threatening confrontation between fantasy and reality. No wonder the stalker has become one of the anti-heroes of our time.

## Major must seize the moment, or die

**J**ohn Major needs another bold stroke. The circumstances are utterly different from his decision to contest the leadership in 1995 but some of the same agonies that preceded it have returned. Standing up to the demands to rule out a single currency in the next Parliament, or at least in its first phase, is at once easier and more difficult than his 1995 decision.

It is easier because the full Cabinet decided in April to leave the issue of monetary union open. It is more difficult because of the strength of the constituency in favour of ruling it out, and because Major's opponents are convinced he no longer believes in the policy.

It scarcely matters whether they are right. What matters is that as long as they think it they will continue to push him to the brink. Major is frustrated. His Chancellor stands between him and a deal with the right that would ease his passage through what could yet be an explosive last party conference before the election. A deal would end the messy destructive prospect of around 100 MPs and candidates fighting the election on an anti-EMU platform in direct conflict with government policy.



Donald Macintyre

Douglas Hurd has written the script on EMU. The PM has to deliver it

It would also prevent a stand-up cabinet row with hard-line Euro-sceptics over what goes in the manifesto.

Major's principal defence so far has been that to decide the issue before the election would be to sacrifice the chance to influence the negotiations leading to monetary union. The more imminent the election, and therefore the establishment of EMU, the more his opponents will argue that such considerations have become irrelevant because there is less to influence. Ministerial Euro-sceptics willfully overestimate the electoral advantages of achieving their goal; and willfully underestimate the divisions exposed by pursuing it.

But they haven't given up. Sir Nicholas Bonsor, who attacked Kenneth Clarke on Tuesday, has some friends in high places, including Michael Howard, whom he would like to see lead the party when Major stands down. Howard knew nothing of Bonsor's attack until it had happened, much less put him up to it. But the connection demonstrates that his constituency is powerful as well as numerous. In short if the left buckled, many of Major's trials would evaporate.

But the left isn't going to buckle. Slowly, belatedly, the pro-European one-nation wing of the party is fighting back.

Douglas Hurd makes an unlikely backbench agitator, and never expected to be one. But he warmed to his role yesterday, eloquently restating the case against ruling out a single currency – but also, for good measure, backing the Chancellor against strident calls for extravagant tax cuts.

But where he said it was more important than what he said. More than 100 MPs and 30 ministers have supported yesterday's launch – in a Westminster club – of the broadly pro-European, one-nation, Conservative Mainstream group. A fair sprinkling of both turned out yesterday to support an organisation that will remain active until the election. It would be fantasy to assume that more than a minority of these would go over the brink with the Chancellor. But it is equally fantasy to suggest that he would be on his own.

Clarke may regret the phrasing of his remarks last Sunday – but routine claims that he was misrepresented in the press have a hollow ring. He was trying to argue that it would be

cowardice to opt out of the first wave without fully considering the economic implications. And he first affirmed the need for Britain to do that at the Madrid summit last December. What's more, the current reading within the Treasury of the Maastricht treaty is that Britain may be able to join the first wave of EMU as late as 1999. If true, it fatally undermines the claim that those implications will all be clear by the election.

Clarke's resignation would be a disaster, on the markets and for the Government, even if no ministers followed him – which some certainly would. Michael Heseltine, Sir George Young, Sir Patrick Mayhew and John Gummer broadly agree with him. And even if they were persuaded to stay, Alistair Burt, Tim Eggar and David Curry would be among more junior ministers who would probably go. The Government would fall, perhaps within days.

It's now clear that one of the reasons why Major was determined to get a deal on BSE in Florence is that at least two backbenchers signalled that they were not going to stand for the policy of non-co-operation continuing. It's quite possible enough would abstain to ensure

the Government lost on a confidence vote. This is a momentous step, but one legitimised by the rebels who turned against the Government over Maastricht in 1993 when Major turned the issue into a confidence vote.

Logic, if not instinct, points Major towards only one course. Doing as the Euro-sceptics demand is suicidal. But doing nothing won't work, either. Senior Tories now speak with a kind of apprehensive relish of the spectacle that the economic debate at Bournemouth in a fortnight could become as the right use it to force open the issue of ruling out EMU.

At the very minimum, Major has to restate yet again the policy of ruling nothing in and nothing out in his conference speech on the Friday. But if he is sensible he will do it before then, in such terms that every attack on the policy at the conference will be transformed into an attack on him. Constituency activists will not forgive any such disloyalty so close to an election. The Prime Minister needs to do it with such conviction that it closes the issue. Douglas Hurd produced the script yesterday. Now Major has to deliver it.

### OUR SERIES ON THE PEOPLE JOCKEYING FOR INFLUENCE IN THE LATE NINETIES



THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT  
Day nine

Mandelson's people

He may be loathed in the Commons, but his is the new face of politics.  
By Peter Popham

**R**obert Harris, the political writer, says of Peter Mandelson (right), "He is spunky, witty, charming – good company. Our children adore him: he's quite mischievous and anarchic, and they respond very well to him. He's like a favourite uncle."

Derek Draper, formerly Mandelson's researcher, says: "He is an exciting person to be with, because of his clarity and precision of thinking and his mixture of charm and mischievousness. The thing he deserves credit for is the incredible warmth and loyalty he shows his friends."

So, Peter Mandelson has friends. The general verdict, when a piece on this subject was proposed, was that it would be an article of record brevity, rivaling the *Bumper Book of German Jokes*. Even Robert Harris responded in this way, before turning on the compliments.

It would certainly be a more straightforward task to compile a list of Mandelson's enemies: just write out the names of the Parliamentary Labour Party, omitting his own ("I am the nicest person I know," he said in 1990) and Tony Blair's. As director of communications, and later Member for Hartlepool and Blair's closest and most trusted adviser (they meet every morning), he has succeeded in seriously antagonising scores of other MPs.

In his book *Faces of Labour*, Andy McSmith tells how in February 1990 Neil Kinnock's impatience with Mandelson's scheming to get a Labour seat boiled over at the party's headquarters in Watford Road. "Kinnock began loudly berating him... Party staff three stories up could hear what the leader was saying and were taking gleeful pleasure in watching the legendary director of communications grappling with a severe communication problem."

That "gleeful" says a lot. The mood abated somewhat after he became the Member for Hartlepool in 1992 and seemed for a while to have given up his spindoc-toring ways. But, in May 1994, on the death of John Smith he hurled himself into the campaign to get Tony Blair elected leader and again rapidly became, according to McSmith, "quite the most unpopular figure in the Parliamentary Labour Party."

cast a respectful terror in the hearts of Tory strategists," one commentator observed, "much as the name Rommel gained a mythical status among Allied generals."

If he had left it at that, the party might have taken him to its bosom. But in 1987 it became clear that he planned to get as closely involved in the making of policy as he had been in its presentation; and that he was going to deploy his formidable presentational skills and his unrivalled, 24-hour-a-day dedication to getting his way.

For a man with no base in the party, it was a bold gamble. His influence owed everything to his intimacy with the leadership and with the media, and to the electricity – in terms of positive news coverage – which this enabled him to generate. But the gamble has paid off handsomely. Mandelson's power base may be fragile, and wholly dependent on Tony Blair not falling under a bus, but it is immense.

Of course he is not as isolated as his parliamentary enemies would like him to appear. His select circle of friends constitutes a microcosm of a particular sort of elite. He has a good relationship with Alistair Campbell, Blair's press officer. His closest friend is probably Philip Gould, the man he coaxed away from a brilliant career in advertising to overhaul Labour's image. Gould's wife is Gail Rebeck, managing director of the publisher HarperCollins who became a millionaire when given golden handcuffs by the company.

Other close friends and allies include John Birt, director general of the BBC; Christopher Bland, the BBC's chairman; and Roger Liddle, a founder member of the SDP and co-author of Mandelson's book *The Blair Revolution*. Another intimate chum is Peter Ashby, his former flatmate, who is prominent as a lobbyist for the cause of full employment.

Most of Mandelson's political work has been backstage, but he himself is now quite famous: last week he was photographed at the Ministry of Sound disco's fifth birthday party, and the *Evening Standard* ran the picture next to Mick Jagger's, and just as large. Conclusion: politics today has become almost exclusively a love affair between politicians and the media.

Tomorrow: the final instalment

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DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

## IMF calls on Clarke to bring down deficit

DIANE COYLE  
Washington

The Chancellor of the Exchequer needs to take "corrective measures" in November's Budget to get the Government's finances moving back towards balance by the end of the century, the International Monetary Fund warned yesterday.

The IMF, the world's financial policeman, predicts that the UK will be one of only five EU countries not to meet the Maastricht Treaty requirement of a government budget deficit of below 3 per cent of GDP in 1997.

Michael Mussa, the IMF's director of research said: "The timetable for moving towards budget balance has slipped. It would be desirable to get it back on track."

Mr Mussa was careful to say Britain's public finances were not in such a weak state that dramatic tax increases or reductions in spending were needed. But he said: "It means

a modest correction to get back on the desirable path."

The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook said it was essential for European countries to continue making progress on cutting their budget deficits. Flemming Larsen, deputy-head of research, said the Continental countries must also focus on deregulating their labour markets.

"Without any significant further progress on structural reform, we would not expect European unemployment to be much below 8.5 per cent by the year 2000," he said.

Although admitting the danger that the Maastricht timetable could slow growth in Europe, he said there was no alternative. "Overall, consolidation has been associated with somewhat weaker recovery than might have otherwise been the case," he said.

If growth in Europe continued to be weaker than expected the IMF would become concerned that the Maastricht process had created a vicious circle of efforts to cut budget deficits reducing growth, which in turn increased the budget shortfall.

The fund added that there are some scope for lower interest rates in Continental Europe where this would not threaten the achievement of low inflation.

Mr Larsen said: "It is too soon to conclude that the recent round of interest rates has fully run its course."

"The IMF forecasts for the world economy are essentially optimistic. The slight pick up in growth in industrial country growth is unlikely to bring higher inflation."

It expects growth in the industrial countries to average 2.3 per cent this year and 2.5 per cent next. It has revised up its forecast for UK next year to 3 per cent from the earlier prediction of 2.7 per cent.

The US growth forecast has also been revised up slightly to 2.4 per cent in 1996 and 2.5 per cent next year. Japan is likely to be one of the fastest growing industrial economies, expanding 3.5 per cent this year and 2.7 next.

Growth in the developing countries was expected to moderate slightly next year, especially in Asia.

The IMF yesterday called for higher interest rates in both the US and the UK, the day after the Federal Reserve made its surprise decision not to increase US rates.

Mr Mussa said: "The prudent course would be to have some slight firming of monetary conditions."

Mr Mussa said this was not intended as a judgement on the Fed's decision, and the need for higher rates was not urgent. But according to the fund's World Economic Outlook "margins of unused resources in the US economy appeared to be virtually exhausted and the unemployment rate has fallen to a level that in the past has been associated with rising wage and price pressures."

It said there was room for further reduction in British unemployment without undue inflationary pressure, but the economy would grow at a rate above its potential next year.

Mr Mussa said interest rates would need to move modestly higher. "This is not a crisis situation but it is a question of prudence," he said.

Comment, page 21

Horton put on the spot as Railtrack investors question safety standards



Only half the expected 1,500 people turned up at the Barbican in the City for Railtrack's first agm since privatisation, writes Christian Wolmar.

Railtrack's chairman, Bob Horton, was accused of misleading the meeting and shareholders expressed concern over the company's safety and investment performance.

Asked about the report into the Watford train crash, Mr Horton said it had been produced but the police and the Health and Safety Executive had asked for it not to be published because "it would prejudice their inquiries". But the HSE later said it had neither received the report, nor asked for it not to be published.

Jonathan Bray of Save our Railways pointed out that Railtrack had failed to spend the planned amount on its Asset Maintenance Plan. He was told that this was a result of Railtrack being in a transitional state, unable to borrow money or to get the cash from the Treasury.

Photograph: Edward Sykes

## End jury trials for fraud, says SFO chief

JILL TREANOR  
Banking Correspondent

George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, yesterday called for an end to the use of juries in the most complex fraud trials.

In a speech which is bound to be interpreted as the SFO's rebuttal of criticism over its handling of the Maxwell case, he said the current system was no longer suitable. However, he saw a role for juries in more straightforward fraud trials.

Mr Staple's comments, which revive proposals examined and dismissed by the Government in the late 1980s, came less than a week after a High Court judge halted the second Maxwell trial.

Mr Staple, who does not intend to renew his contract when it runs out in April, said: "I've always been a very great supporter of juries." But, he added: "If it is unreasonably burdensome for a single jury of 12 ordinary people to be asked to try the whole case, the question arises of what sort of alternative tribunal would be suitable."

He identified as one of the SFO's most serious problems the pressure to split charges into smaller blocks so that they are more manageable for the jury. The SFO has been encouraged to do this by the appeal court, notably Blue Arrow in 1992.

This means that for all the counts on indictment sheet to be heard more than one trial is required and the jury will never hear the full evidence against the defendants.

"So the position now is that in most complex fraud cases the indictment... will be split up to produce a series of manageable trials, but it is very unlikely that a second trial will ever take place," Mr Staple said.

"This means that the full criminality is unlikely ever to come to court, nor will all the defendants. The system is therefore emasculated," he said.

The SFO does not believe that juries are incapable of understanding the issues of a case and also rejected criticism from Mr Justice Buckley last week that the SFO wanted to bring the second trial because it could not accept the decision of the first jury to clear the Maxwell brothers.

"The question is whether it is reasonable to ask an ordinary jury to sit for as long as it inevitably takes in the most complex cases to hear the entire case and, at the end of the process, deliver a verdict," Mr Staple said.

## Concern over failed Man Utd bid

PATRICK TOOHER

Institutional investors in Manchester United yesterday expressed concern over the circumstances surrounding a failed £300m bid for the Premier ship club by VCI, the video and publishing group chaired by Michael Grade, the Channel Four chief executive.

"Certainly I was never informed," said one leading fund manager. "If it was a serious bid the Stock Exchange should have been informed. If I had been selling during the period I would be very unhappy."

His comments, and news that bid talks lasted for at least a month, are likely to increase the

pressure on the Stock Exchange to launch an inquiry into the attempted takeover, which coincided with a sharp rise in Manchester United's share price.

VCI walked away from the deal, worth about 480p a share, after the bid premium it was prepared to pay disappeared as United's share price rocketed. At no stage was the Stock Exchange informed of any discussions between the publicly quoted companies.

"The talks were never formally called off," said a source closely involved in the deal. "The rise in the share price meant there was nothing to discuss. It took a lot of the sting out of the bid."

Last night it emerged that Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards first met HSBC, VCI's advisors, to discuss the bid on 13 May, just two days after the club had beaten Liverpool in the FA Cup Final to land the league and cup double for an unprecedented second time.

Discussions between the two sides continued for about a month. VCI insists the bid was serious, if somewhat audacious, and had full financial backing in place. "Manchester United were talking to one of the biggest banks in the world," the source continued.

Manchester United, four of whose directors sold - including

Mr Edwards - some 4.5 million shares for £21m on 13 June, says no Stock Exchange announcement about a takeover approach was necessary because the VCI bid never made a formal bid.

It attributes the share price rise, from 333p to 489p between 20 May and 11 June, to prospects of a cash bonanza from satellite and pay-per-view television deals.

On 6 June a £670m deal was struck between Premiership clubs and the satellite broadcaster BSkyB to televise live top-flight football until 2001. Dealers yesterday recalled bid rumours which also began to swirl around Manchester United days before the BSkyB deal.

Housing: Builder stays cautious on prospects despite rising profits and volumes as improved market fails to help brick-maker

## No boom on the way, warns buoyant Barratt

PATRICK TOOHER

Barratt Developments, Britain's second biggest housebuilder, yesterday struck a cautious note about prospects for the UK housing market, despite reporting results that were the envy of most of its rivals.

Barratt ruled out a return to the boom conditions of the late Eighties and warned that house price increases would only match earnings growth of about 3 to 4 per cent over the next few years. "We do not seek, nor do we expect, any improvement in the very substantial UK housing market," said Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman.

Frank Eaton, Barratt's chief executive, noted that price rises in the South-east of England, where the housing market is strongest, were now tapering off after increases of up to 10 per cent in 1995 over the last year.

Outside the South-east, Mr Eaton said the housing market had remained competitive but volumes were now beginning to move ahead, helped by incentives such as part-exchange deals. "Purchaser confidence is now returning," he added.

Barratt's comments came as it posted an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £52.1m in the year to June, at the top end of analysts' expectations. Shares in Barratt rose 6p to 274.5p.

"Barratt is the only national housebuilder to increase volume completions, pre-tax profits and earnings per share combined, despite the very difficult conditions which continued in the UK housebuilding industry during the year," said Sir Lawrie.

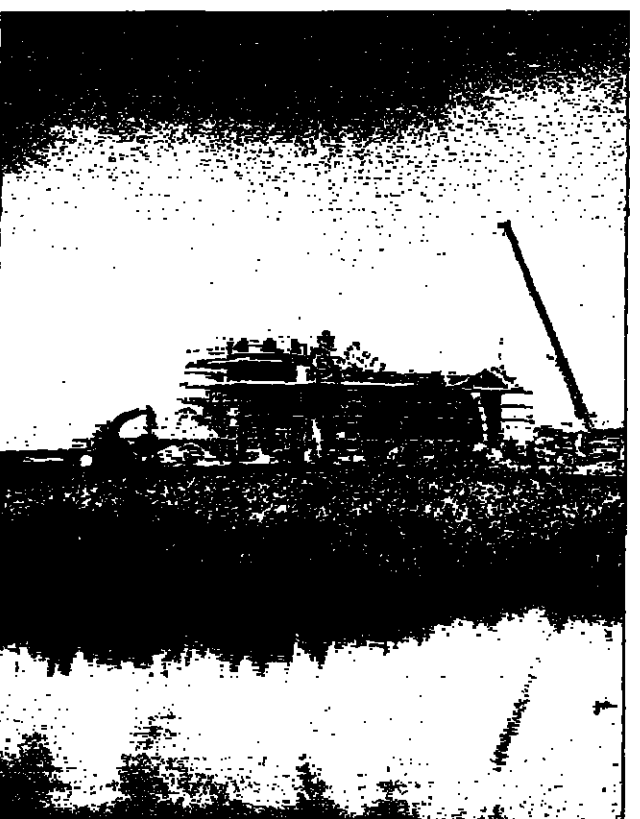
Just over 7,000 homes were sold during the year, a rise of 6 per cent on a year ago, at an average selling price of £83,000, also up 6 per cent.

Barratt expects to sell about 8,000 houses this year, putting it well on course to achieve its target of 11,000 completions by the year 2000. The group revealed that it had made a bid of £52m for housebuilder Admiral, which last week was bought by Bryant for £62m, including £58.0m in assumed debt.

However, Barratt - ranked number two behind Wimpey with a 5 per cent market share - remained sceptical about growing by acquisition in an industry that is rapidly consolidating.

"Shareholders can be assured we will not overpay to take on board problem housebuilding operations," Sir Lawrie said. Barratt also hit out at "costly delays" in the Government's planning policy, which was causing a shortage of development land and increasing pressure on house prices.

Investment Column, page 26



Housing hopes dampened: Barratt does not expect a repeat of the Eighties boom despite recent price rises

## Ibstock interim profits pulped

TOM STEVENSON

The improving fortunes of the housing market failed to help Ibstock, Britain's biggest brick manufacturer, where persistently weak demand for housing bricks was compounded by a slump in fortunes at the company's Portuguese wood pulp businesses to send profits in the half-year to June into a tailspin.

Ibstock warned the full-year outcome would be "significantly" below the £26.1m profit achieved in 1995.

The disappointing results, which saw interim profits collapse from £14m to £2.8m and the dividend held at 0.75p, wiped 7.5p, or 12 per cent, from the shares which closed at 57p.

The figures were the first since Ibstock acquired Redland's brick-making interests in April to become Britain's top brick manufacturer, ahead of Hanson, its nearest rival. After yesterday's fall, the shares are barely above the 55p at which the company pitched a two-for-three rights issue to fund the Redland deal.

Both Barratt and Ibstock will take comfort from reports issued yesterday which suggest better times ahead for the construction industry.

According to the Land Registry, all types of property increased in value in the three months to June, the latest figures available, with some parts of the market experiencing boom conditions not seen for al-

most a decade. While the average detached house rose a modest 1.77 per cent in the quarter, and the average terraced house 2.15 per cent, new terraced houses and new flats increased by 13.6 per cent and 17.7 per cent respectively.

Greater London led the surge, with the price of the average London property breaking through the £100,000 barrier after a 5.5 per cent rise in the three month period.

The latest research from Cambridge Econometrics on the construction industry also gave grounds for optimism. According to the half-yearly report, construction output is expected to stop falling this year with modest growth of about 0.5 per cent.

Growth of more than 3 per cent is forecast for 1997 and 1998.

Ian Maclellan, chief executive, said the slowdown in demand for bricks in the UK began in 1995 and has continued throughout the first six months of 1996. Ibstock's market share was held but lower sales volumes in the industry as a whole meant prices were slashed and the division's profits fell from £6m to £3.2m.

The main cause of the profits slump was a 44 per cent fall in the price of wood pulp during the half year, which saw the forest products division reverse a £6.1m profit last year into a £1.3m loss.

## London leads surge in property prices

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3835.70	+25.20	+0.6	3977.20	3822.30
FTSE 250	4429.10	+14.90	+0.3	4568.50	4015.30
FTSE 350	1983.90	+11.30	+0.6	1985.80	1816.50
FTSE 400	1983.90	+11.30	+0.6	1985.80	1816.50
FTSE 500	1983.90	+11.30	+0.6	1985.80	1816.50
FTSE 600	1983.90	+11.30	+0.6	1985.80	1816.50
FTSE 700	1983.90	+11.30	+0.6	1985.80	1816.50
FTSE 800	1983.90	+11.30	+0.6	1985.80	1816.50
FTSE 900	1983.90	+11.30	+0.6	1985.80	1816.50
FTSE 1000	1983.90	+11.30	+0.6	1985.80	1816.50

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling*	UK medium gilt	US long bond	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year
5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81
5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81
5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81
5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81
5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	£/A\$	£/NZ\$	£/HK\$
1.5545	0.6382	153.1	0.6382	0.6382	0.6382
1.5545	0.6382	153.1	0.6382	0.6382	0.6382
1.5545	0.6382	153.1	0.6382	0.6382	0.6382
1.5545	0.6382	153.1	0.6382	0.6382	0.6382
1.5545	0.6382	153.1	0.6382	0.6382	0.6382

OTHER INDICATORS					
Index	Value	Change	Year Ago	Index	Value
Oil Brent \$	22.79	+0.34	16.12	RPI	153.1
Gold \$	382.55	+0.50	383.70	GDP	108.1
Gold £	244.92	-0.70	244.26	Base Rates	5.75p



## business

## Harrisons is slow to bear fruit

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN  
EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Harrisons & Croftfield just cannot seem to fire on all cylinders at once. Bill Turcan, who moved over into the chief executive's slot in May 1994, has done his best to shake the tree, but the former plantations group has resolutely failed to deliver.

The first half to June was no exception, with pre-tax profits down from £66.4m to £58.1m, hit by a collapse in the results of the builder's merchandising operations on both sides of the Atlantic. Underlying profits from Harrisons, which has been overtaken by Travis Perkins as the UK's leading chain, slumped from £9.6m to £5.1m, while Moore's in the US turned £1.1m profits into a £2.4m loss.

But most of the UK industry has suffered in the past 18 months and Harrisons's northern bias has left it particularly exposed. In the US, Moore's has faced aggressive competition from a new entrant in the DIY market and floods in Pennsylvania. The restructuring initiated in both businesses has clearly hit the figures in the short term, but the results are starting to come through. Moore's is back in profit and new management at Harrisons has already exceeded its original cost savings target of £8.5m.

Harrisons recognises that operating margins at Harrisons, 3.1 per cent in the latest figures, need to catch up with the industry's best. Despite more difficult conditions, Travis Perkins is still notching up 7.2 per cent, some 2 percentage points better than Harrisons in its peak year of 1994. The omens are good, however, especially since Harrisons has won back half the market share lost since April last year.

Elsewhere, chemicals continue to shine, with profits rising from £28.6m to £29.3m in the latest period. Harrisons has an enviable position in chrome chemicals, used in a range of applications from wood treatment to aerospace alloys, and is strong in pigments for paints and the like. Most of the £250m to £300m firepower provided by the group's ungeared balance sheet will initially be concentrated here. Discussions about acquisitions are under way, but nothing is imminent, the company says.

With the impending disposal of the remaining plantation interests next month, Harrisons' only other division will be the BOCM Pauls animal feeds to malt operations. These kept profits moving despite what was effectively a £1.5m hit from the mad cow scare. Profits of £119m this year would put the shares, up 1.5p at 143p, on a for-

ward multiple of 13. Questions remain about the continuing absence of a finance director and management's ability to spend wisely, but the shares are worth holding now.

## Barratt builds on rising prices

The good times are back for Barratt, Britain's second-biggest housebuilder. While eschewing talk of a return to the boom days of the late Eighties, the chief executive, Frank Eaton, yesterday spoke of an "extremely positive" outlook after posting a healthy 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £52.1m in the year to June on sales 10 per cent higher at £634m. Earnings per share rose 17 per cent to 17.8p while the dividend was increased by one-tenth to 8.25p.

Unlike most other housebuilders, Barratt continues to increase its sales and profits thanks in part to its adept

use of part-exchange schemes, which accounted for 4,000 of the 7,000 completions made during the year.

Barratt has also benefited from its strong regional focus on the South-east in general, and London in particular, where annual house price increases of up to 10 per cent are being seen. This London effect wholly accounted for the rise in average UK selling price to £83,000 from £78,000 a year ago.

Barratt boasts about the virtues of going down the organic route in its quest to build 11,000 houses a year by the end of the century. It noted the departure of many weak operators during the period and, cooking a snook at Wimpey, its larger rival which recently swapped its minerals business for Barratt's housing activities, Barratt highlighted the problems buyers faced with poor-quality land stocks and high reorganisation costs.

A timely £90m rights issue earlier this year has left the balance sheet free of debt, with net cash standing at £42m. That ought to provide a firm spring-

board for Barratt to grow its market share from the current 5 per cent level, though history suggests housebuilders cannot sustain a market share much above 10 per cent.

On analysts' pre-tax forecasts of £68m, the shares stand on a forward p/e of 14 with the shares up 6p at 274.5p. Despite the strong performance, the risks inherent in its ambitious expansion plan mean they are high enough.

## Alexon recovers with style

Shareholders in Alexon still have a long way to go before their shares get near to the 430p peak reached five years ago, just after the women's clothing group spun off its manufacturing operations as Claremont Garments. But with another 7p rise to 175p yesterday, they are, at least, now moving in the right direction.

The credit for that should go to John Osborn, who arrived as chief executive in 1993 with a brief to stem the losses at Alexon's Dash brand and keep its bankers at bay. Figures showing pre-tax profits mushrooming from £141,000 to £3.03m in the 26 weeks to July show just how successful he has been. Having been forced by 69 per cent gearing to go cap in hand to bankers last year, he has all but wiped out debts and is confidently talking of paying off three years of accumulated preference dividends – a total of some £4m – in March.

The early part of what is a classic recovery story came with overhead containment. Mr Osborn reckons central costs, as much as £17m when he arrived, should be held below £10m in 1996/97 for the third successive year. The focus has now shifted to top-line growth and, once again, Alexon is delivering in spades. Turnover up from £47.5m to £57.2m represented like-for-like sales growth of 16.5 per cent.

All five brands, ranging from Kaliko, the most recent, aimed at the over-30s to Eastex, catering for the elderly, chalked up double-figure percentage sales increases in the period. That is testimony not only to Alexon's sharp differentiation of its customer base, but also probably reflects the early fruits of a new design team installed last year.

Full-year profits of £7.5m would put the shares on a forward p/e of 16. The boom on the high street and prodigious cash generation fully justify that rating.

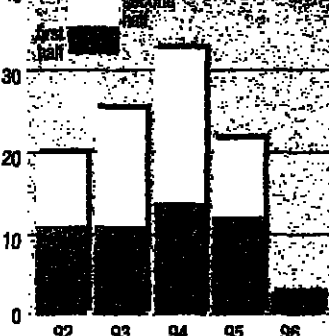
## HARRISONS &amp; CROFTFIELD: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.02bn, share price 143p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Turnover (£m)	2.21	2.11	2.05	2.03	1.00
Pre-tax profits (£m)	98.0	237	120	66.4	64.0
Earnings per share (pence)	8.6	27.3	10.5	5.7	5.5
Dividends per share (pence)	9.0	9.0	9.0	3.6	3.6

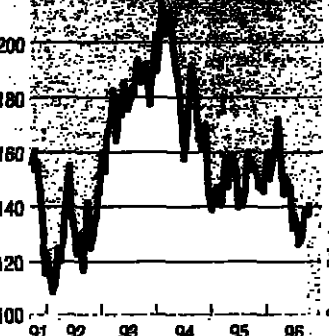
## Building supplies

operating profit, £m



## Share price

pence



## Grand Met sells opticians to US retailer for £140m

NIGEL COPE

Grand Metropolitan has sold its opticians business, Pearle Vision, to the US group Cole National Corporation for £140m. The deal closes an unhappy chapter for Grand Metropolitan, which acquired the business in 1985 only to find it crippled by a crowded market and cut-throat competition.

Grand Met held on to the company to improve Pearle's performance before putting it up for sale earlier this year. Pearle has 875 outlets, including 692 in North America and the Caribbean and 183 in Europe. It recently edged back into profit. In the year to September 1995, Pearle recorded profits of £10m on sales of £232m.

Analysts said the price was as expected compared to Pearle's net assets of £150m. The deal will be completed in November and include a £265m goodwill write-off.

Cole National Corporation is a leading retailer of eyewear products through its Cole Vision division. Pearle trades

under the names Pearle Vision Centre, Pearle Vision Express and Pearle Eye & Tech.

Commenting on the sale John McGrath, chief executive of Grand Metropolitan, said: "We have achieved significant improvement in Pearle's business performance over the last three years. However, Pearle does not fit our strategy of focusing on market-leading food and drink businesses."



John McGrath: Focusing on food and drink businesses

Earlier this month Grand Metropolitan began a clear-out of its lesser known European brands when it sold its Erasco food business in Germany to Campbell Soup of the US for £140m. It also hung a "for sale" sign over a raft of under-performing names including Shippams pastes and Memory Lane cakes.

It has renamed the division Pillsbury Europe and is moving its head office from Paris to Uxbridge. City analysts expect the combined business to fetch between £50m and £100m. Tomkins, owner of Mr Kipling cakes, has been tipped as a possible buyer of the Memory Lane business.

The strategy is to focus the food business on main brands Pillsbury, Haagen Dazs, Old El Paso and Green Giant and to free up capital to concentrate on higher margin, powerful brands. There is consistent speculation that the Burger King fast food business may be sold, though the company denies any such plans. Grand Met shares closed 5.5p higher at 476.5p.

## AEA price goes to top end

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Shares for the flotation of AEA Technology were yesterday priced at 280p, at the top end of already raised expectations, after the retail offer was six times over-subscribed. The price values the former science and engineering services arm of the Atomic Energy Authority at £224m.

The strong demand is expected to ensure a good send-off for the shares when they start trading today. Subscriptions totalling £156m were received for the 10 per cent of the offer

being sold through financial intermediaries to their clients, prompting Schroders, the merchant bank handling the issue, to raise the allocation to 12.5 per cent. Earlier this week, the Government accepted its recommendation that the indicative price range for the issue be raised by 10p to between 250p and 280p.

Even so, applications have been scaled down to roughly 22 per cent of the amount applied for, with a total overall cap of £7.5m being applied to individual intermediaries before the scaling down formula is

applied. Applications from employees totalling 2.2 per cent of the shares in issue have been met in full.

Sir Anthony Cleaver, chairman, welcomed the keen interest in the privatisation, the last before the election.

"This offer has had an excellent reception from institutional investors and intermediaries on behalf of their clients," he said. "We look forward to life in the private sector and to building a successful business for the benefit of investors, customers and employees."

## City diners get a chance to invest in a taste of the Orient

## PEOPLE &amp; BUSINESS



Boarding another job: John Towers, third post in a month

City restaurant goers are about to be given a taste of "Asian fusion" courtesy of the Oriental Group, the Sri Siam, Sri Thai and Imperial City restaurant group which is coming to the stock market.

Michael Paterson, the former stock broker who runs the group together with Hock Ann Chua, plan to open three more restaurants in the Square Mile. One will be a Pacific Rim restaurant which will combine Chinese, Thai and Malaysian food. But the group also has big plans for "Asian Fusion"

which is Western food spiced up for the sterner palate. With Ken Hom, the top chef, designing the menus, this is unlikely to be chicken and chips with chillies and rice. But you have been warned.

London's Regent Street could be home to a new flag ship store according to whispers in mail order circles. Talbots, the US retail and mail order group, already has five UK stores and is looking for up to 20, including a centrepiece in London. The company's senior executives

are in town this week sizing up potential locations, with Regent Street topping the list. Arnold B Zetser, Talbots president and chief executive officer, said: "We've thought of Bond Street and a couple of other locations but the top end of Regent Street looks interesting."

The company is also hoping to add its womenswear stores to Kensington High Street and two or three other sites. Its stores in Guildford

and Kingston-upon-Thames are performing well though the Sheffield and Manchester branches have yet to fire on all cylinders.

John Towers, the former Rover chief executive who resigned following the takeover by BMW, has landed yet another boardroom post – his third this month. He has been appointed chief executive of Concentric, the West Midlands-based engineering

group with effect from 1 October. He takes over from Robert Bruce, who is returning to the United States.

Earlier this month Mr Towers became a non-executive of B Elliott, the engineering group and the investment advisory board of Hambros European Ventures.

Professional business women are to have their own magazine. *Professionelle* is being

launched tomorrow by the former IBM executive Hilary Owen.

A kind of *Marie Claire* meets *Fortune*, the magazine is aimed at women who run their own businesses or are working up the corporate ladder in small or large firms. It will focus on inspirational role models as well as news and features. Cover story in the opening issue is the Crunchie Flying Circus, whatever that is.

Ms Owen has developed a mailing list of 80,000 for the first bi-monthly issue but hopes to sell the magazine on the newsstands soon.

"I just felt there was a need for a magazine for professional women. It won't trivialise things. Our message is 'Find your own potential and fulfil it'."

Eurodollar, the car rental group, has renewed its sponsorship deal with Chelsea football club.

The non-cash deal sees the Chelsea players receive free cars (the manager, Raul Gullit, chose an Audi) while Eurodollar takes advertising hoardings around the ground.

The sponsorship is more than just business for Eurodollar's managing director John Leigh. A fanatical Chelsea supporter, he takes the hospitality very seriously in the Eurodollar executive box.

"If people attend, they are there to watch Chelsea as far as he is concerned," says a spokeswoman. "He doesn't try to sell them anything."

Nigel Cope

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\*Certain conditions apply to complimentary chauffeur driven cars. For full details call Continental.

Continental Airlines



At 20, Kate Winslet – star of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Jude* – is the only young British actress Hollywood will trust with a leading role. But, Tim de Lisle discovers, that doesn't stop her being wickedly indiscreet

Starting on Sunday... The Cultural Revolution – a ground-breaking three-week series looking at the way in which new communications technologies are changing our lives. This week: reflections on the future of art, music, cinema and literature



Chintzless wonders: a three-part guide to the best of hotel living begins with a survey of the British design-led palaces of the Hemphels (left), Starcks, Conrans, and other new grand hoteliers

Plus: Michael Bywater, Ben Pimlott, Helen Fielding

IN THIS WEEKEND'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Beck's mediocrity WARNING.

On Tues 8th October introduce telephone every will appreciate

BUT WE HAVE L

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The intermediaries will only get a fifth of the AEA shares they applied for. That, together with an undemanding prospective earnings multiple, should make the shares fly

## Taxpayers are still short-changed in sell-offs

Britain's experiment in privatisation is drawing to a close much as it began with a state-owned business sold off on the cheap and the investment community looking another gift horse squarely in the dentures.

Fourteen years ago, Amersham International, an obscure spin-off from the Atomic Energy Authority, first gave privatisation a bad name. The issue, surprise, surprise, was grotesquely underpriced, leading to massive over-subscription and a 37 per cent profit when dealings began for those lucky enough to have grabbed a slice of the action.

Today shares will begin trading in another spin-off from the Atomic Energy Authority, this time AEA Technology, after the offer closed seven times subscribed. The scope for a first-day killing may not be as large as in past privatisations, given that the institutions are not being squeezed as severely as they have in the past to make way for the share-buying public. But the intermediaries — broking firms through which the public have had to apply for shares — will only get a fifth of the shares they applied for. That, together with an undemanding prospective earnings multiple of just over 14, should make the shares fly unless PDM's Tony Dye suddenly gets what he has been praying for these past 18 months.

Amersham and AEA Technology are two businesses very similar in size. They both make a living from the commercial application of using skills and technologies honed

in the nuclear industry. They are both staffed largely by boffins whose appreciation of commercial life, at the outset of life as quoted companies at least, is limited. In fourteen years Amersham has transformed itself, proving what a handsome investment it was back in 1982. The shares have outperformed the Footsie by 200 per cent as sales and profits have increased seven-fold.

Over the same period, however, the Government's attitude to privatisation has hardly changed. True, the marketing is immeasurably more sophisticated and there is a little more effort to extract higher prices. You can argue that the efficiency gains in transferring state assets into the private sector have been enormous but you cannot argue that the taxpayer has been anything other than shortchanged when the assets have physically changed hands. If there is one difference with AEA Technology, it is that none of the directors stands to make a killing from share options. Still that shouldn't matter too much to its chief executive, Peter Watson. He is sitting on a £4m windfall from his other involvement in privatisation — the sale of Portbrook.

### IMF puts an end to British economy myth

Economics is rich in myths and one of the most enduring myths about the British economy in recent years is that the Gov-

ernment's borrowing requirement has slipped a bit but at least it is better than the Europeans can manage. We might not want to join the single currency, but, by golly, we could if we wanted to.

This happy notion, much encouraged by Kenneth Clarke, was firmly scotched by yesterday's new set of forecasts from the International Monetary Fund. The IMF gave the UK and pretty good clean bill of health during the summer and it hasn't changed its mind. But the one critical observation it makes is that a "correction" is needed in the public finances.

The Fund is less vulnerable than the European Commission to rigging its forecasts in order to make it look as though France and Germany will meet the 3 per cent public deficit to GDP ratio needed to qualify for EMU. Then again, Washington is much further away from those overenthusiastic Paris and Bonn officials.

So the IMF can be trusted when it predicts that the French and Germans will scrape under the wire in 1997. Its economists add the caveat that there is actually a risk of public spending cuts leading to slower growth that would derail the achievement of the deficit target.

Equally they mean what they say when they forecast that the UK will not satisfy this criterion. In fact the British budget position next year will be little better than the Spanish or the Portuguese. Only the Greeks and Italians will do much worse.

In the long run the UK enjoys a much better outlook for its public finances.

It has neither a dramatically ageing population nor has it an overgenerous pension system so does not share huge "invisible" pension liabilities with the continental governments.

However, that should not permit Mr Clarke to rest on his laurels in the meantime. He has not earned them yet.

### NatWest securitisation is a brave attempt

In the United States the revenues from health club membership fees have been securitised and sold on the bond market. In Spain, the same has been done to nuclear power station subsidies.

In a more mundane way, the packaging and sale on the bond markets of mortgage interest and credit card payments and, even the revenues from car hire purchase agreements, have become an everyday routine.

When it is carried out by banks, the usual motive is to get rid of part of the stock of loans by passing them on to securities market investors.

This frees space on the balance sheet to make new loans to bank customers.

NatWest's £3.2bn securitisation sounds the same as all the other wheezes, but in fact the bank is making a brave first attempt at opening up a new part of the market that

has not been attempted even in the US, the real home of securitisation.

Since the European market started in earnest in the mid-1980s, around £40bn of securitisation issues have been announced, but in the US, \$100bn was sold last year alone.

It has been possible for years to sell loans individually, in the so called secondary debt market. The difference is that NatWest is putting together a large number of corporate loans, and selling them in packaged form.

There are two reasons why nobody else has done it. Banks have been concerned that they will offend their customers, or encourage them to go straight to the securities market to raise cash themselves.

The margins on loans to large companies are also low, so most banks have scratched their heads and wondered whether it is worth going to the trouble of reselling them.

In the US, investors are prepared to spread their risks by buying a wide range of securitisation issues with different credit ratings. They of course have no currency risks, since it is a dollar market.

In Europe, investors tend to spread their risks in different currencies, but they demand the highest triple-A rated bonds in each.

So to get this issue away, NatWest has to get both the price and the ratings exactly right. It will not be easy.

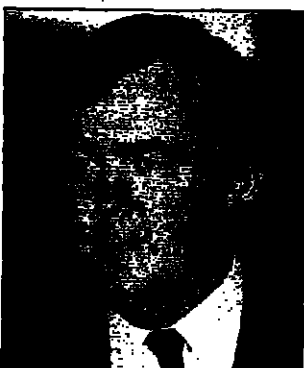
## NatWest puts £3bn of loans on market

JILL TREANOR and PETER RODGERS

Bankers said yesterday that there would be a rush to securitise corporate loans by selling them on the bond market if a pioneering NatWest deal proves attractive to investors.

NatWest confirmed yesterday it was selling \$5bn (£3.2bn) of corporate loans by repackaging them as securities, which would be offered to bond market investors.

Barclays was widely tipped in the bond markets as the next to make the move. Alan Brown, head of risk at Barclays, confirmed that the bank had studied the idea. He said: "I wouldn't rule it out but we're not in any active stages of



Bond pioneer: NatWest chief executive Derek Wanless

launching it. We've looked at the techniques. It's purely what Barclays had no immediate

need to sell its loans in this way, he made clear.

But Adrian Laycock, managing director in London of Fitch Investor Services, the US credit rating agency which specialises in securitisation issues, said: "If this goes well, you can see the floodgates opening in the UK and Europe."

The deal, which will release approximately £250m of capital, will be sold to investors from the end of next month and NatWest Markets, the investment banking arm of the bank, intends to start a series of roadshows in the days ahead to line up buyers for the new securities.

Many banks have been held back from securitising corporate loans by fears of a bad reaction from customers, but NatWest

said that its new plan would make no difference to customers and their identity would not be passed on to buyers of the new securities.

The securities give investors an entitlement to the cash flow from the loans, but there is no direct relationship with the borrower. NatWest will remain the lender to the companies.

The operation is being carried out through a special purpose company, Rose Funding Group, which will take loans of up to five years maturity made by NatWest to 300 companies and convert them into floating rate notes (FRNs) and commercial paper (CP).

Alby Capor, managing director of European primary markets at NatWest, said the 300 loans

were a "representative sample of NatWest's lending portfolio to large corporate customers".

Rose will issue the paper in different tranches with different ratings, ranging from high investment grade to no rating at all. These ratings are not based on the creditworthiness of the borrowers but are simply a reflection of the amount of additional security provided by NatWest for each type of bond. The special purpose company will be provided with additional guarantees and capital to increase the creditworthiness of the paper it issues.

It took NatWest Markets just over a year to produce the idea, which was prompted by a desire to increase the return on its corporate loans, where

profit margins have shrunk to rock bottom levels because of tough competition.

Most loans to large companies are made as loss leaders, in the hope of selling fee paying services to the same customers. Unprofitable lending to large companies is a problem shared by most banks.

NatWest hopes that if Rose is successful in selling the securitised debt it will be used to carry out the same operation for other banks.

NatWest said it had no immediate plans for the approximately £250m of capital which will be released through the deal, although it was prepared to consider another share buy-back on top of the £450m it bought back earlier this year.

### IN BRIEF

• Crédit Lyonnais is to receive Fr3.9bn (£487m) in emergency aid from the French government, Finance Minister Jean Arthuis confirmed yesterday. The figure had already been put forward by the European Commission, which said earlier today it approved the emergency plan. Mr Arthuis said the sum corresponded to the cost to Crédit Lyonnais in 1995 and 1996 of a loan it made to cover the costs of moving doubtful assets into a separate structure as part of a 1995 rescue plan. Mr Arthuis also said that the government is preparing a new recovery plan to come into effect quickly "so that this institution can be made competitive" with a view to privatisation "as soon as possible".

• Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries said sales growth is strong, and capital investment on the existing estate and new pubs and sites has continued. Margins continue to be under pressure in the wholesale business, but are slightly higher in the second half than in the first six months. Retail margins improved in the second half but operation costs are higher than last year, reflecting investment in higher service standards, the company said. The company said trading over the summer months has been strong, with turnover in the year to date up 7.4 per cent. This compares with growth of 6.1 per cent for continuing businesses in the first 26 weeks of the financial year ended 29 September 1996. Based on management accounts for the first 47 weeks of the year, the company said beer and cider volumes overall are up 1.7 per cent, the same as in the first half, despite comparison in the second half with the "exceptional" summer of 1995.

• Hanson said shareholders approved "overwhelmingly" the demerger of Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco at the extraordinary general meeting today. The demergers are expected to become effective on 1 October. The two demergers leave only the spin-off of Hanson's Peabody Coal to Eastern Group energy division next January to complete the four-way break-up of the underperforming conglomerate.

• AT&T said it has agreed to sell its Skynet Satellite Services unit to the US technology company Loral Space & Communications for \$712.5m (£456m) in cash. AT&T spokesman Bob Aquilina said the sale of Skynet, a satellite operator that specialises in entertainment and educational programme distribution, is part of a change in strategy at the group, which yesterday issued a warning on earnings. "AT&T's strategy is to take advantage of the opportunities opened up by the new telecommunications regulation by focusing on our core businesses," Mr Aquilina said. Loral said it expects Skynet's purchase, which will hinge on Federal Communications Commission and Federal Trade Commission approval, to enhance its pre-tax earnings in 1998 and contribute about \$30m to pre-tax profits that year.

• Brake Bros, the catering food distributors, said it was ready to take advantage of growth opportunities, aided by the strength of the balance sheet. The group unveiled pre-tax profits up from £11.6m to £12.4m in the first half to June and is raising the interim dividend by 7.4 per cent to 2.9p. Sales jumped from £214m to £296m. The company said its Larderfresh business is moving towards profitability as sales continue to grow. Meanwhile, the acquisition of Vermeas was "another significant move" in the development of the business in France.

• Scottish Television said it had extended the date on which its bid for Caledonian Publishing must become unconditional in all respects to 18 October. Scottish said both the Office of Fair Trading and the Independent Television Commission had indicated that they will have concluded their inquiries by that date.

• Helical Bar, the property group, said it was well placed to outperform the sector through its development programme of strategically placed office schemes and out of town retail and leisure parks. The aim over the next year would be to build an increasing flow of development profits from a small equity exposure and increase cash resources by de-gearing its investment portfolio, the company said. Pre-tax profits just edged ahead from £4.25m to £4.36m in the six months to July, despite a 63 per cent rise in turnover to £45.7m. The half-year dividend rises from 2.9p to 3.15p.

• Peptide Therapeutics, the biotechnology group, has won a patent for its bacteriophage display technology from the European Patent Office. The patent covers the display of multiple copies of peptides on the surface of bacterial viruses, known as bacteriophages. The technology is expected to provide considerable revenue through collaboration and licensing agreements, the company said.

## Knight moves to reduce red tape in City

PETER RODGERS  
Financial Editor

Angela Knight, the Treasury minister, yesterday promised that financial firms with excellent track records could be subjected to less intensive monitoring from the regulators.

As she launched a drive to promote deregulation in the City, Mrs Knight rejected suggestions that the timing of the Government's City deregulation initiative was bad. The drive comes in the wake of the scandal at Morgan Grenfell, which is owned by Deutsche, one of only half a dozen triple-A rated banks in the world.

Mrs Knight said: "You can never regulate to prevent somebody behaving in a way that is totally irresponsible."

"If such widely used systems as debit cards and the Bank Automated Clearing System can operate with the minimum of regulation, it stands to reason that other areas can be freed from red tape too."

However, it emerged that there was increasing concern among financial regulators, who launched a new programme to streamline the rulebooks nearly a year ago, that the City had misunderstood the likely impact of changes under way.

One source said that despite the Government's drive to re-

duce red tape "it would be misconceived to believe that the impact of deregulation will be less regulation".

There will be a reduction in the number of detailed rules companies have to obey. But in return, firms will have to reinforce their own internal control systems to prevent abuse of customers, and there will be much more intensive monitoring of these systems by the regulators — and probably no reduction in the overall burden of regulation on the City.

Mrs Knight was speaking with Roger Freeman, the deregulation minister, at a seminar at which City firms were invited by the Government to give their views on how the burden of regulation could be lowered. The participants gave the ministers a shopping list of 21 changes and Mr Freeman promised a reply within a month, saying the Government "will, wherever practicable, act on them".

Among the proposals from the City were to give companies more discretion in fact finding about customers, to allow financial salesmen scope to give limited rather than comprehensive advice and to put more effort into educating consumers about their finances.

Nobody on the floor raised the question of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Mrs Knight



Knight: "You can't regulate to prevent somebody behaving irresponsibly" Photograph: FT

believed that if the participants felt it was significant for the whole of the regulatory regime, the question would have been raised. If changes were made as a result of the affair, they would be "minor rather than major".

Regulators should not rush into writing new rules because an individual or organisation did not live up to requirements, Mrs Knight said. She believed that deregulation was about reducing bureaucracy and ensuring

regulatory activity was in proportion to the likely problems.

The next move was to promote a cost-effective regulatory system which the Securities and Investments Board was pushing forward, she said.

## CBI asks Clarke to focus on cuts in public spending

MICHAEL HARRISON

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday called on the Chancellor to deliver a "prudent" Budget in November, putting reductions in public spending ahead of pre-election tax cuts.

The employers organisation said Kenneth Clarke had scope for a £5.3bn cut in public expenditure but could only afford to reduce taxes by £1bn. Tax cuts, it added, should be directed mainly at small and medium-sized businesses and those on low incomes.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays and head of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said: "What we want is a Budget which delivers a sound fiscal position. The Chancellor

should have prudence as a watchword."

What was needed, he added, was not radical action to stimulate the economy but continuity of the stable economic conditions achieved over the past four years.

The CBI said a £5.3bn reduction in spending implied that Whitehall departments needed to settle budgets within existing targets. Further reductions might be achievable but it did not want to see any cuts in education and training or on infrastructure spending.

On taxation, the CBI said within its "very limited scope" the Chancellor should concentrate on measures to stimulate small businesses. These include an extension of the Enterprise Investment Scheme, lower cor-

poration tax and tax breaks on the cost of raising equity and research and development.

Given that growth was expected to accelerate to just over 3 per cent next year, consumer spending to rise by a robust 4 per cent and inflation was under control, there was little need for tax cuts or a change in interest rates, the CBI said.

If Mr Clarke did have room for tax cuts then he should give priority to those on low incomes by, for instance, increasing the basic tax allowance. This, the CBI said, would reduce the disincentive to work.

The CBI restated its support for a review of capital gains tax, including the option of taxing longer-term gains at a lower rate, but it said this should be a longer-term aim.

## Pru joins ranks of phone banking

NIC CICUTTI

Prudential, the UK's largest life insurer, yesterday launched its telephone banking arm and offered a guarantee that its mortgages and savings products would be among the most competitive in the market.

The Pru said it aimed to win back most of the £1bn-plus it paid out each year in maturing policies, money which investors usually paid into saving schemes run by competitors. The insurer also hopes to provide loans to borrowers for whom it currently arranges £700m of mortgages a year with other lenders.

Jim Sutcliffe, chief executive at Prudential UK, said: "By setting up a brand new banking operation, we are able to take advantage of the latest modern technology and apply innovative product design."

"We do not need to sustain the costs of a traditional branch network so our customers will be able to benefit from attractive interest rates."

The company is rolling out two deposit accounts, a High Interest Deposit Account and a 60-Day Notice Account, although further launches are planned. In both cases, the Pru guarantees to beat the best equivalent branch-based products of the top 10 banks and building societies. Mike Harris, chief executive at Prudential Banking, said the guarantee was not applied against postal accounts "because the Pru offered a different type of product, including the use of salesmen to help customers."

It also pledged that its mortgages would not impose hidden charges or unfair practices, saving £600 or more for borrowers during the lifetime of a typical £50,000 mortgage.

However, the Pru's launch was dismissed by Direct Line, its major prospective rival in the telephone banking market, which claimed that its products were cheaper. Jim Spowart, managing director at Direct Line Financial Services, argued the cost of using phones and a salesforce would blunt the Pru's competitive edge.

"Multi-distribution channels have to be paid for otherwise they destroy the benefits of a direct service," he said. "A product range containing hundreds of alternatives will be complex for both operators and consumers to negotiate."

On Tuesday 8th October, BT introduce a telephone table everyone will appreciate.

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Prices and savings will continue to be correct on 8 October 1996, compared against BT's best offer for international calls of 5 minutes or more, 4pm-8pm weekdays and any time at weekends. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £5.75 (inc VAT).







# Honesty could be Brown's best election weapon

While politics is always unpredictable, one can be pretty certain that on Monday, at Labour's pre-election party conference, Gordon Brown will emphasise just how tough he intends to be in running the economy. No risks with inflation, no boosts in public spending, demanding targets for the debt/GDP ratio and no borrowing except for investment. In all probability he will mean what he says, for New Labour has discovered the truth that slack fiscal policy has little to do with being on the left - socialist or otherwise.

But imagine the scene at Mr Brown's first attempt to lay down this line in government. His maiden Budget speech might include something like this: "I can today announce our new forecasts. We have certainly inherited a mess in the public finances. But we are taking firm steps to counter this. The training package that I am announcing today will boost growth. More important for the short term, I will unveil sharp cuts in our non-priority programmes as to reduce public spending swiftly. With these measures I can tell you firmly that the fiscal position will be brought under control."

A stirring speech, but to what end? The key aim of such a hard-nosed policy would, of course, be to enable the rebalancing of the economy towards investment and away from consumption. And that requires being tough on fiscal policy, thereby allowing interest rates to stay low.

From one corner the response is predictable. Mr Brown will be howled down by the left and the public sector trade unions. There may even be Cabinet resignations. His policy, it will be said, is a sell-out to the powers of international capital



## ECONOMIC VIEW DAN CORRY

and to monetarist orthodoxy. But what of the other corner, where the prowling menace of the City lies? Do they welcome this stance, confirmation that New Labour is no lover of fiscal imprudence and inflation? Does the "sell-out" pacify them?

The chances are that, despite his perseverance, the markets will be unenthusiastic with Mr Brown's Budget. Far from pushing interest rates down in response to the announced fiscal tightening, they will suspect that the figures are dodgy, that the

remember (or do they?) the sheer nonsense they were fed about the fiscal position in the run-up to the 1992 General Election (see graph). They have witnessed a government that prides itself on "sound money" running a general government financial deficit (the Maastricht definition) that in each year since 1992/3 exceeded anything produced in the supposedly profligate years of the 1970s, with a new record set in 1993/4 (7.9 per cent of GDP).

They have observed a government

### "The markets will suspect the figures are dodgy, growth forecasts massaged"

growth forecasts are massaged and they will discount the idea that the fiscal position will improve. If anything, down will go the pound, and the pressure on Mr Brown will be to raise interest rates again. Tough on public finances - but to no avail. The nightmare scenario.

Why might this happen? The problem is that Labour has a credibility problem on the public finances. Life is not fair and good intentions are not enough. The markets start with a presumption that Labour will always be up to no good in this area.

Of course they have been given a pretty rough ride by Conservative chancellors over the years. They will

that talks of not spending what you do not earn, that has been borrowing to finance consumption and tax cuts for some years now with the current expenditure exceeding current receipts in every one of the past five years. No wonder they tend to cynicism about government statements.

And yet the markets are still prepared to play along with the Tories' claim that it is OK for them to make tax cuts in the forthcoming Budget, as long as they offer some vague promise of further "efficiency" savings in the public sector, despite the fact that that 17 years, spending as a share of GDP has hardly budged. The truth is that, however suspi-

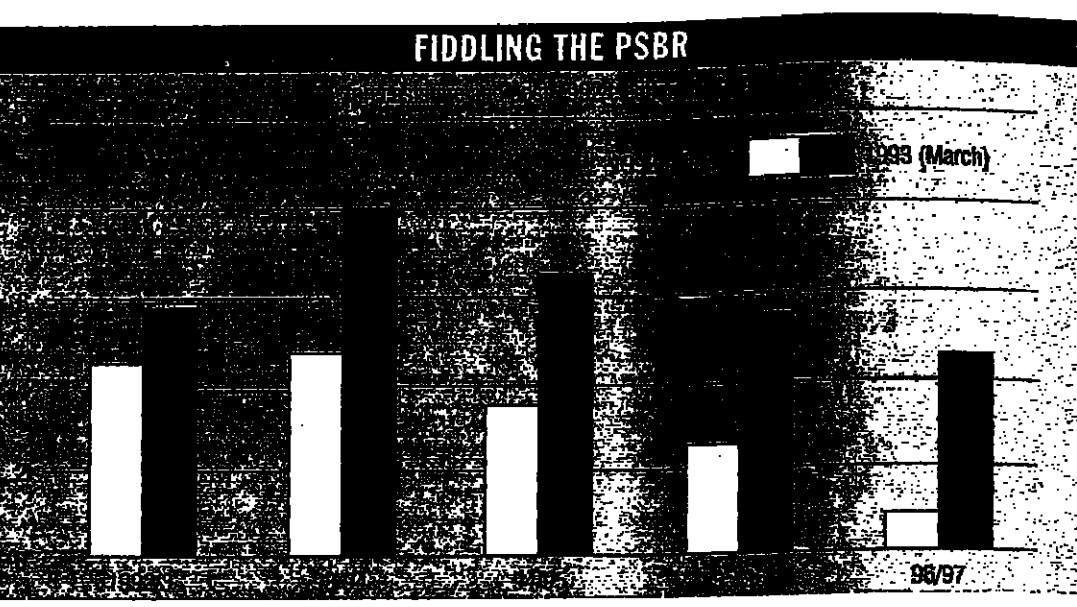
cious the markets are of Kenneth Clarke's PSBR forecasts, you can be sure that they will be even less likely to believe any projections put out by Mr Brown.

Indeed, facts barely noticed during the Tory years will suddenly come into focus. The PFI, shunting spending forward to future years rather than genuinely cutting it, will come under the spotlight, unaccounted for contingent liabilities on pensions will be worried about; the net worth picture, as bad as anything we have had for years, will start to be talked about in City wine bars.

What can Labour do about this prospective unpleasant situation? The problems of market disbelief stem partly from the fact that it is very easy for the Treasury to present the forecasts for the PSBR in a light favourable to the chancellor of the day. It may be that they willfully lie (and given the "porkies" around the 1992 election, this possibility cannot be totally ruled out). More fairly, it has to be said that forecasts on the fiscal position are very difficult to make.

All economic forecasts are uncertain and should have very big health warnings. But the fiscal position is even more difficult. The relationship between growth and tax revenues may, and apparently has, changed sharply. The timings of tax receipts may alter if firms do not invest when expected. The tax avoidance industry can always make up any forecast. Spending pressures are very cyclical but not always apparent or predictable.

Given this uncertainty the markets will always have reasonable grounds for assuming that the forecast of the fiscal position is too favourable. For this reason they will want real interest



rates to be higher than they need be as an insurance policy.

The long-term answer will be for Labour in office to prove it does mean what it says, that it does not consistently give over-optimistic forecasts, that when it uses things such as the PFI, it is for honourable reasons. But an institutional change could help too. The key, but simple, change would be to have such economic and fiscal projections made by an independent body.

Professor Simon Wren-Lewis has proposed that this body be called the Economic Forecast and Assessment Office (EFAO) and have the job of providing an assessment of future medium- to long-term trends in both the economy and public finances. The extra credibility that this would give such forecasts would mean that interest rates could be

lower than otherwise. This idea will strike terror into many, especially on the left. At a time when the Bank of England has more and more power over interest rate decisions, and EMU offers the possibility of this power going abroad, are we now to give power over fiscal policy to an unelected agency as well?

But this is not the point. The EFAO would not decide policy, but give advice on the prospects and the likely consequences of alternative actions. The chancellor would still have the power to ask for different assumptions to be used for the forecast published at Budget time. But because these changes would have to be explicitly noted, he would have to explain to the world why he thought the EFAO was wrong.

Public scrutiny would be enhanced, credibility would soar and

with luck, interest rates would be lower.

Openness then should be Mr Brown's weapon in the fight for fiscal credibility. The same principle applied to the government accounts would also help. Accounts that reflected the true position of the public sector and were totally transparent may make nasty reading at times, but would start to gain a reputation for honesty that should lead to lower interest rates.

It is rare that what is morally right turns out to be good economics. But in the fiscal case, honesty really is the best game in town.

Dan Corry is senior economist at the IPPR and editor of "New Economy". \* "Avoiding Fiscal Fudge", New Economy, Vol 3 no 3.

### Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark
US	15580	5-3	7-4	1000
Canada	2308	1-3	50-37	13877
Germany	23370	52-46	122-42	2-1
France	7782	51-34	357-367	2-26
Italy	23712	48-63	142-166	2-26
Japan	17101	75-70	225-216	10377
ECU	12385	5-11	45-46	10377
Belgium	48547	11-8	31-38	10377
Netherlands	24548	52-46	142-166	10377
Norway	10572	7-3	20-14	10377
Spain	3833	21-31	69-66	10377
Sweden	12185	0-1	1-9	10377
Switzerland	15275	50-46	122-42	10377
Australia	12720	10-31	37-38	10377
Hong Kong	12047	10-31	224-70	10377
Malaysia	33870	0-0	0-0	10377
New Zealand	22233	45-57	133-65	10377
Saudi Arabia	58438	0-0	0-0	10377
Singapore	25252	0-0	0-0	10377

### Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	15582	0-0	0-0
Australia	15582	0-0	0-0
Brazil	15582	0-0	0-0
Canada	15582	0-0	0-0
Chile	15582	0-0	0-0
Colombia	15582	0-0	0-0
Czech	15582	0-0	0-0
Denmark	15582	0-0	0-0
Egypt	15582	0-0	0-0
Finland	15582	0-0	0-0
Ghana	15582	0-0	0-0
Greece	15582	0-0	0-0
India	15582	0-0	0-0
Indonesia	15582	0-0	0-0
Israel	15582	0-0	0-0
Italy	15582	0-0	0-0
Japan	15582	0-0	0-0
Korea	15582	0-0	0-0
Malaysia	15582	0-0	0-0
Mexico	15582	0-0	0-0
Netherlands	15582	0-0	0-0
Norway	15582	0-0	0-0
Poland	15582	0-0	0-0
Portugal	15582	0-0	0-0
Romania	15582	0-0	0-0
Russia	15582	0-0	0-0
South Africa	15582	0-0	0-0
Spain	15582	0-0	0-0
Sweden	15582	0-0	0-0
Switzerland	15582	0-0	0-0
Taiwan	15582	0-0	0-0
Thailand	15582	0-0	0-0
Turkey	15582	0-0	0-0
UK	15582	0-0	0-0
USA	15582	0-0	0-0
West Germany	15582	0-0	0-0
Yugoslavia	15582	0-0	0-0

### Interest Rates

Country	Rate
UK	5.75%
Germany	5.75%
France	5.75%
Italy	5.75%
Japan	5.75%
ECU	5.75%
Belgium	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%
Norway	5.75%
Spain	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%
Australia	5.75%
Canada	5.75%
USA	5.75%

### Bond Yields

Country	Rate
UK	5.75%
Germany	5.75%
France	5.75%
Italy	5.75%
Japan	5.75%
ECU	5.75%
Belgium	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%
Norway	5.75%
Spain	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%
Australia	5.75%
Canada	5.75%
USA	5.75%

### Money Market Rates

Country	Rate
UK	5.75%
Germany	5.75%
France	5.75%
Italy	5.75%
Japan	5.75%
ECU	5.75%
Belgium	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%
Norway	5.75%
Spain	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%
Australia	5.75%
Canada	5.75%
USA	5.75%

### Tourist Rates

Country	Rate
UK	5.75%
Germany	5.75%
France	5.75%
Italy	5.75%
Japan	5.75%
ECU	5.75%
Belgium	5.75%
Netherlands	5.75%
Norway	5.75%
Spain	5.75%
Sweden	5.75%
Switzerland	5.75%
Australia	5.75%
Canada	5.75%
USA	5.75%

### Life Financial Futures

Contract	Rate
Long GB	100.00
Short GB	100.00
Long US	100.00
Short US	100.00
Long JPY	100.00
Short JPY	100.00
Long AUD	100.00
Short AUD	100.00
Long NZD	100.00
Short NZD	100.00
Long HKD	100.00
Short HKD	100.00
Long SGD	100.00
Short SGD	100.00
Long TWD	100.00
Short TWD	100.00
Long KRW	100.00
Short KRW	100.00
Long BHK	100.00
Short BHK	100.00
Long BTH	100.00
Short BTH	100.00
Long BTL	100.00
Short BTL	100.00
Long BMD	100.00
Short BMD	100.00
Long BND	100.00
Short BND	100.00
Long BDT	100.00
Short BDT	100.00
Long BOP	100.00
Short BOP	100.00
Long BPS	100.00
Short BPS	100.00
Long BPC	100.00
Short BPC	100.00
Long BPL	100.00
Short BPL	100.00
Long BPR	100.00
Short BPR	100.00
Long BPT	100.00
Short BPT	100.00
Long BPU	100.00
Short BPU	100.00
Long BPV	100.00
Short BPV	100.00
Long BPW	100.00
Short BPW	100.00
Long BPX	100.00
Short BPX	100.00
Long BPY	100.00
Short BPY	100.00
Long BPZ	100.00
Short BPZ	100.00
Long BQA	100.00
Short BQA	100.00
Long BQB	100.00
Short BQB	100.00
Long BQC	100.00
Short BQC	100.00
Long BQD	100.00
Short BQD	100.00
Long BQE	100.00
Short BQE	100.00
Long BQF	100.00
Short BQF	100.00
Long BQG	100.00
Short BQG	100.00
Long BQH	100.00
Short BQH	100.00
Long BQI	100.00
Short BQI	100.00
Long BQJ	100.00
Short BQJ	100.00
Long BQK	100.00
Short BQK	100.00
Long BQL	100.00
Short BQL	100.00
Long BQM	100.00
Short BQM	100.00
Long BQN	100.00
Short BQN	100.00
Long BQO	100.00
Short BQO	100.00
Long BQP	100.00
Short BQP	100.00
Long BQQ	100.00
Short BQQ	100.00
Long BQR	100.00
Short BQR	100.00
Long BQS	100.00
Short BQS	100.00
Long BQT	100.00
Short BQT	100.00
Long BQU	100.00
Short BQU	100.00
Long BQV	100.00
Short BQV	100.00
Long BQW	100.00
Short BQW	100.00
Long BQX	100.00
Short BQX	100.00
Long BQY	100.00
Short BQY	100.00
Long BQZ	100.00
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Short BQA	100.00
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Short BQB	100.00
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Short BQC	100.00
Long BQD	100.00
Short BQD	100.00
Long BQE	100.00
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Long BQF	100.00
Short BQF	100.00
Long BQG	100.00
Short BQG	100.00
Long BQH	100.00
Short BQH	100.00
Long BQI	100.00
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Short BQJ	100.00
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Long BQL	100.00
Short BQL	100.00
Long BQM	100.00
Short BQM	100.00
Long BQN	100.00
Short BQN	100.00
Long BQO	100.00
Short BQO	100.00
Long BQP	100.00
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Long BQQ	100.00
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Short BQT	100.00
Long BQU	100.00
Short BQU	100.00
Long BQV	100.00
Short BQV	100.00
Long BQW	100.00
Short BQW	100.00
Long BQX	100.00
Short BQX	100.00
Long BQY	100.00
Short BQY	100.00
Long BQZ	100.00
Short BQZ	100.00
Long BQA	100.00
Short BQA	100.00
Long BQB	100.00
Short BQB	100.00
Long BQC	100.00
Short BQC	100.00
Long BQD	100.00
Short BQD	100.00
Long BQE	100.00
Short BQE	100.00
Long BQF	100.00
Short BQF	100.00
Long BQG	100.00
Short BQG	100.00
Long BQH	100.00
Short BQH	100.00
Long BQI	100.00
Short BQI	100.00
Long BQJ	100.00
Short BQJ	100.00
Long BQK	100.00
Short BQK	100.00
Long BQL	100.00
Short BQL	100.00
Long BQM	100.00
Short BQM	100.00
Long BQN	100.00
Short BQN	100.00
Long BQO	100.00
Short BQO	100.00
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Short BQT	100.00
Long BQU	100.00
Short BQU	100.00
Long BQV	100.00
Short BQV	100.00
Long BQW	100.00
Short BQW	100.00
Long BQX	100.00
Short BQX	100.00
Long BQY	100.00
Short BQY	100.00
Long BQZ	100.00
Short BQZ	100.00
Long BQA	100.00
Short BQA	100.00
Long BQB	100.00
Short BQB	100.00
Long BQC	100.00
Short BQC	100.00
Long BQD	100.00
Short BQD	100.00
Long BQE	100.00
Short BQE	100.00
Long BQF	100.00
Short BQF	100.00
Long BQG	100.00
Short BQG	100.00
Long BQH	100.00
Short BQH	100.00
Long BQI	100.00
Short BQI	100.00
Long BQJ	100.00
Short BQJ	100.00
Long BQK	100.00
Short BQK	100.00
Long BQL	100.00
Short BQL	100.00
Long BQM	100.00
Short BQM	100.00
Long BQN	100.00
Short BQN	100.00
Long BQO	100.00
Short BQO	100.00
Long BQP	100.00
Short BQP	100.00
Long BQQ	100.00
Short BQQ	100.00
Long BQR	100.00
Short BQR	100.00



# Sad sight of a great figure reaching forlornly for what used to be

When an ill-tempered felly booted Willie Carson in the stomach at Newbury last week, sending him 12 feet into the air and splitting his liver, people said that it was no sort of risk for a middle-aged man to be taking.

Probably, they are right, but try telling that to Carson. "So I'm going to be 54 in November. So what," you can imagine him saying.

Time waits for no athlete, and by his own marvellous standards - last season Carson brought in a century of winners for the 23rd time in 25 years - the total of 52 recorded before Mesheh lashed out at him had already prompted thoughts of retirement.

That the splendid veteran might easily have lost his life in the Newbury parade ring adds greatly to the

concern raised by a bad fall at Newmarket and quite startling errors in riding.

We can be sure, however, that any attempt to coax Carson out of the saddle would be an ear-burning experience. What we are talking about here is not so much a driven man as one trying to fend off the curse of anticlimax.

Carson knows that, no matter what the rest of his life holds, he will never find more joy than he has had from race riding. "There is nothing better in football than playing," Bill Shankly said.

In retirement, one of the greatest baseball players in history, Mickey Mantle, said: "I loved it. Nobody could have loved playing ball as much as me. The hair comes up on the back of my neck when I think

about it. I get goose bumps. And I remember how it was and how I used to think that it would always be that way."

It passes so quickly, you see, the cheers like thunder, the dark devil's wine of fame. Then it's over and they can't believe it's done. Long after the performance, when the old players think seriously, they realize that they have become obsolete as an age when most men are moving towards their prime.

Better to hang on than step out too soon? Maybe, but the onset of nostalgia is inevitable. At the passing of an old footballer whose later life had been filled with memories of the long ago, someone wrote: "He didn't die this week. He died on the day he had to stop playing."



KEN JONES

That is the land of lost content, I see it shining plain,  
The happy highways where I went  
And cannot come again.  
A E Housman

In their determination to hang on, some delude themselves. "If

Danny Blanchflower is nearby when you get the ball, run past him," Matt Busby said to his players at Manchester United when it was obvious that the great career of Tottenham Hotspur's captain was almost over.

Blanchflower's brain was still sharp but he no longer had the legs. It turned out to be his last competitive match. "I think Tottenham acted prematurely," he said many years later. Pele was still strong and supple at 34 but, in 1974, he resisted the temptation of making a fifth appearance in World Cup finals. "Nobody loves football more," I remember him saying one night in Brazil, "but another World Cup is too much."

A couple of days after Ray Wilkins ceased to be the player-

manager of Queen's Park Rangers, he turned out for Wycombe Wanderers. At 40 years old, Wilkins simply cannot give up playing. Stanley Matthews turned out for Stoke City at 50, Billy Meredith for Manchester United at the same age.

Last week, Graham Gooch, 43, was named batsman of the year. "Nothing much has changed," he said. "It's still me against the 11 guys who are trying to get me out."

The sadness in all this is when you see a great figure reaching forlornly for what used to be. Usually because of financial imperatives, it often happens in boxing. Terry Downes was once asked how it felt to defeat Sugar Ray Robinson, who is regarded as the greatest fighter, pound for pound, in history. "I

didn't," Downes said. "I only beat some guy who called himself by that name." When Robinson lost to Downes, he was 43 and in serious financial difficulty.

Similar circumstances forced the former world lightweight champion, Ken Buchanan, to take a contest in London against an opponent he could once have beaten blindfolded. Buchanan lost on points. "Just one more time," he said in the dressing-room afterwards. "Just one more time."

Whether Carson chooses to continue may depend on the medical advice he is given. "I think that Willie's time has come," somebody who knows him well said this week. "He should give it up. But the little sod thinks probably that he can go on riding for ever."

## Lions pass opening test in Highlands

### Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD  
reports from Mount Hagen,  
Papua New Guinea  
PNG President's XIII  
Great Britain

Great Britain overcame the problems of playing in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea to get their tour off to a convincing start yesterday.

A side with little international experience did a solid and confident job against an enterprising President's XIII - effectively the Kumuls' second team - in Mount Hagen. Rugby is never easy in the Highlands, but the Lions coped admirably with the thin air and temperatures that tested the fitness of players, many of whom have not had a match for more than a month.

It was almost too straightforward in the opening exchanges. Before Great Britain had even needed to stop for their first drink or gulp of oxygen, their captain Daryl Powell's pass had sent in his former Sheffield team-mate Keith Senior. Great Britain went 10-0 ahead thanks to Karle Hammond's short pass to David Brad-

bury. It was all in keeping with the day's hectic schedule, which involved flying into the Highlands for the game and dashing back to the airport to catch the last flight before nightfall.

After that initial flourish, there was never much doubt that the Lions would be departing with a win under their belt, although their coach, Phil Larder, noted that complacency crept into their play before half-time.

The President's XIII were always looking to throw the ball around and some excellent handling gained its reward when Chris Itam went in at the corner despite the efforts of Hammond and Steve Prescott to force him into touch.

Great Britain had four tries disallowed, one by James Lowes for no discernible reason, before they took control of the game. Hammond sent Barrie-Jon Mather striding away and then did well to support him on the outside to score. Lowes then made up for his disallowed efforts when Powell, a reassuring captain for such a young side, stole the ball and sent him through a defence that waited in vain for a penalty to be awarded.

The home side responded to the challenge with David Tiki wriggling out of Jason Critchley's tackle, but two tries in rapid succession from Tony Smith gave the final scoreline a most satisfactory look. All that remained was to run the gauntlet of local fans, most of whom only came in after the gates had been opened in the second half.

John Roper and Neil Harmon proved to be the first casualties of battle: Roper damaged knee ligaments and Harmon was concussed just two minutes into his first match since June. They will not be considered for the next few matches, but there are others, like Powell, Bradbury and Rowland Phillips, who will make Larder think seriously about the fine-tuning of the Test side to play Papua New Guinea in Lae on Saturday.

PRESIDENT'S XIII: John Tiki, Mosoko, Paka, Ram, Baka, Mai, Sam, Daniel, Baka, Ali, Norman, Kurnik. Substitutes: Steve Tera, Zulu, Kalyonon, Sam.  
GREAT BRITAIN: Prescott (St Helens); Roper (Warrington), Mather (Western Reds), Senior (Sheff Weds), Critchley (Wid. Bears), Powell (Wid. Bears), Smith (Castleford), Molloy (Featherstone), Lowes (Bradford), Mather (Sheff Weds), Bradbury (Oldham), Goss (Wigan), Hammond (St Helens). Substitutes: Keith Senior, Toller (London), Harmon (Leeds), Mather (Leeds), Phillips (Wid. Bears).  
Referee: T. Hunt (Port. Moresby).



Great Britain's Barrie-Jon Mather shapes to offload while under pressure yesterday

Photograph: Victoria Matthews

## Lewis set to face McCall for world title

### Boxing

Mike Tyson has given up his World Boxing Council heavyweight title - clearing the way for Britain's Lennox Lewis to regain the crown he lost two years ago.

The WBC declared the heavyweight title vacant and said they would be calling for purse offers for a title fight between Lewis and the American, Oliver McCall. Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, is hoping to bring the fight to London in November - giving Lewis the chance to avenge the WBC title defeat he suffered to McCall inside two rounds at Wembley in September 1994.

Lewis's chance comes courtesy of Tyson's decision to take on Bruce Seldon for the World Boxing Association title before the official WBC challenger, Lewis. Tyson's promoter, Don King, had paid Lewis £2.6m to step aside and agreed that Tyson's WBC belt would not be on the line against Seldon in their 7 September bout, which Tyson won in the first round.

Tyson is scheduled to defend his WBA title against the former undisputed champion, Evander Holyfield, on 9 November in Las Vegas. But, if Lewis beats McCall, Maloney believes a title bout with Tyson could still take place.

## GRAND PRIX '96 RACE SCHEDULE

Japanese GP

October 13

### Overall Top 50 Dream Teams

Twenty-nine teams are in joint 1st position with 621 points, twenty-one teams are in joint 2nd position with 617 points

- 1 The Pits
- 1 Pippa's Pole
- 1 Positioners
- 1 Al A Carte
- 1 GRI
- 1 KBS Team Lightning
- 1 Sherbie's Stars
- 1 Sky Club
- 1 Tony's Omega One
- 1 Robin 1
- 1 The Fulkington
- 1 Formula 1
- 1 Catch Me One
- 1 French Flyers
- 1 Panville
- 1 They Think It's All Over F1
- 1 Kwest International
- 1 Wright Off
- 1 Reliant
- 1 Southern Sharks 3
- 1 The Tiger Hobbes
- 1 Team
- 1 Tamar Racing
- 1 Murrayfield Machines
- 1 Ben Hur Racing
- 1 Tortoise
- 1 Johnny Fives Super Team
- 1 BJB & H
- 1 Hubbers
- 1 Newman's Own
- 1 Nice One Tyrrell
- 1 Team A La Carte
- 1 Jumpin Jacks
- 2 Biblic Racing
- 2 Maddisons
- 2 Crisp One
- 2 The Forty One's
- 2 Elfultha
- 2 Geecear!
- 2 Equinox
- 2 Farfars
- 2 Gordy GTs
- 2 Mino Marauders
- 2 Herb's Flyers
- 2 Dan's Reckless Racers
- 2 Sineky Formula 1
- 2 Peanyjures
- 2 The Dare Devils
- 2 Dream Machines
- 2 Harvey
- 2 God's Son
- 2 Bisland's Bangers
- 2 I'm Alright Jacques

# FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM F1

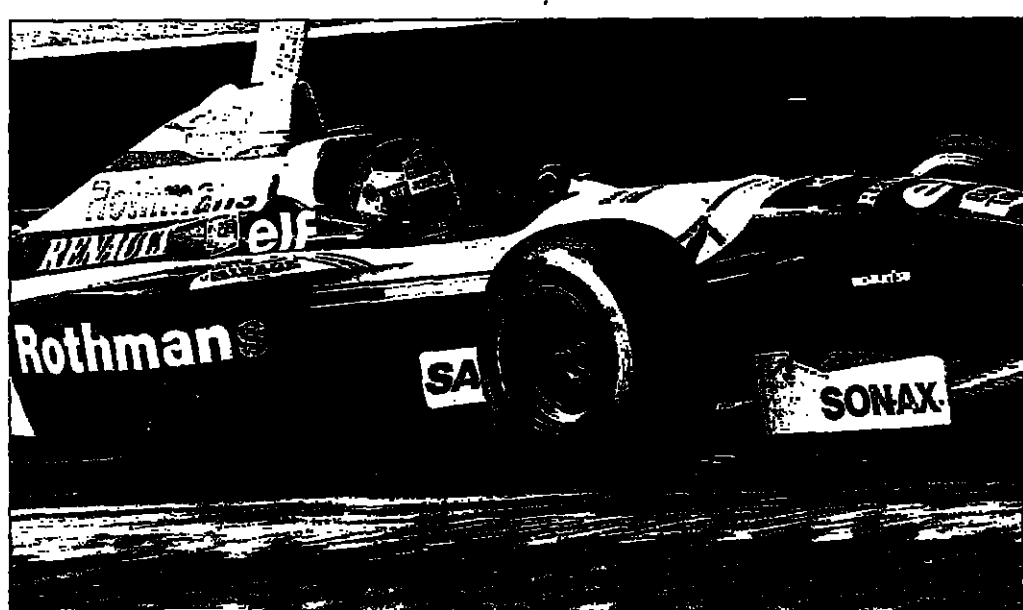
## The latest scores and results

So it goes down to the wire for Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve in Japan in two and a half weeks, and the number of Dream Team Managers with maximum scores dwindles still further: hang on for a nerve-wracking finish, and an extremely early morning if you want to catch the final action of the season live.

Sunday's race appeared to hinge on two pit-stops: the final visits of Hill and Villeneuve, and if Dream Team managers were able to recruit pit crews as well as drivers, Villeneuve's mechanics would be in demand. They got their man back on the track a crucial fraction of a second ahead of his world-championship-leading team-mate, and the young French Canadian was never headed again.

But as Hill admitted, with typical candour, he was short of speed on the track as well as in the pits. In the early stages of the race, with a comfortable lead and his only championship rival stuck in fourth place, the Englishman was in an ideal position to seal the title. But he was delayed by back-markers, Villeneuve pulled off a staggering move to get past Schumacher, and Hill's chance had gone.

Behind the Williams pair, the



Jacques Villeneuve on the way to victory at the Portuguese Grand Prix

Dream Team scorers were, for once, rather predictable, with Ferrari and Benetton both getting both drivers to the finish in what was an unusually easy race on reliability. McLaren's drivers blotted their copy books by managing to drive into each other on one of Estoril's slower corners, an achievement that is unlikely to have gone unnoticed by Ron Dennis, the forthright team manager.

Further down the field, Jos Verstappen, an outstandingly bad buy in Dream Team terms, was

once again upstaged by his steady, unexciting team-mate, the young Brazilian Ricardo Rosset, and Pedro Lamy picked up Dream Team points at his home grand prix, despite forgetting to start the race at the same time as everyone else.

## DRIVER OF THE DAY : JACQUES VILLENEUVE



No quibbles at all about this award: the young French Canadian dominated proceedings at Estoril in a way that he has never done before so far in his brief career at the top level. His more experienced team-mate had no answer to his sheer speed, and his overtaking manoeuvre on Michael Schumacher - around the outside at the high-speed Parabolica corner - will not be forgotten by any who witnessed it, and certainly not by Schumacher.

The most impressive thing about the move - which included getting a "tow" in the slipstream of Giovanni Lavaggi, the slowest man on the track - was that Villeneuve had planned for something like it, having told his mechanics to set up his car so that he could take an unorthodox line through the corner. It spoke volumes for his bravery and imagination, but also reflected his experience in the free-for-all of American Indycar racing. What a move...

Team Position Check Lines

0891 891 806

Results &amp; Top 50 Teams

0891 891 807

Calls cost 39p per minute plus 14p per minute at all other times. Rates are as previously published and are available on request.

## WIN a drive in a grand prix car

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car.

You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides off the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

WIN A DAY OUT TESTING WITH THE TYRRELL TEAM Enter for the Japanese Grand Prix, the final grand prix of the 1996 season, and you and a friend could win a day out testing with the Tyrrell Formula One team at Silverstone. Don't miss The Independent on Thursday 10 October for details on how to register.

PORTUGUESE GRAND PRIX PRIZE WINNER Congratulations to Gary Heather from Dartford, Kent and his team Keep The Faith. He has won a trip for two to the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona.



## Grand Prix Shopping List

POINTS SCORED

DRIVERS	POINTS	CHASSIS	POINTS
1 M Schumacher	20	40 Benetton	14
2 J Alesi	18	41 Williams	20
3 D Hill	24	42 Ferrari	16
4 G Berger	12	43 McLaren	2
5 D Coulthard	5	44 Sauber	13
6 E Irvine	13	45 Jordan	7
7 J Villeneuve	36	46 Ligier	7
8 M Hakkinen	2	47 Tyrrell	0
9 H H Frenzen	4	48 Arrows	3
10 M Brundle	1	49 Minardi	0
11 R Barrichello	5	50 Forti	0
12 J Herbert	4		
13 M Salo	2		
14 P Lamy	3		
15 P Diniz	4		
16 U Katayama	2		
17 J Verstappen	3		
18 O Paris	5		
19 L Badoer	0		
20 R Rosset	3		
21 A Montemini	0		
22 G Fisichella	0		
23 V Sospiri	0		
24 T Marques	0		
25 F Lagorce	0		
26 H Noda	0		
27 T Inoue	0		
28 M Blundell	0		
29 J-C Bouillon	0		
30 K Brack	0		
31 K Burt	0		
32 E Collard	0		
33 N Fontane	0		
34 D Franchitti	0		
35 N Larini	0		
36 J Magnussen	0		
37 A Prost	0		
38 G Tarquini	0		
39 K Wendlinger	0		







## sport

RUGBY UNION: Rowell finally gets his preparations under way but maintains mystery over his choice of leader

# England's captain kept secret

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Jack Rowell has decided who the next England captain is to be in succession to Will Carling, but neither the player nor the Rugby Football Union has been informed.

The England coach, who revealed that he and the rest of his management team had decided the captaincy issue a week ago, explained yet another bizarre turn of events in the crazy world of rugby union by saying: "We have selected a captain and as soon as the conflict between English Professional Rugby Union Clubs and the RFU is resolved I will name him."

"Until then only the England management know the player's identity," Rowell added. "I have not told the player and it has not yet been cleared with the rugby union, nor indeed with the president, John Richardson, himself. I feel it would be invidious to appoint this man at the moment. I feel he may possibly get caught up in some crossfire and that would not do English rugby any good. I would not like a future captain to be caught up in it. I just hope the differences between Epruc and the RFU can be resolved as quickly as possible for the good of the game."

Rowell's heartfelt desire may well come true following publication of a leaked letter from the RFU secretary, Tony Hall, to the Epruc chairman, Donald Kerr, that Twickenham is proposing a series of payments to the clubs. These would include 10 per cent of all gate revenue from international matches at Twickenham plus an annual sum of around £500,000 as well as a one-off payment of £50,000 to help in the cost of setting up Epruc administratively.

Hallett sent the letter with the full knowledge of the RFU committee and such a concession by Twickenham, provided Epruc are satisfied, should en-

sure a speedy conclusion to a wrangle that has dragged on since the winter and has unfortunately embroiled the England players. They reluctantly boycotted the first of Rowell's squad sessions while the RFU were forced to cancel the second two weeks ago to avoid a confrontation with the players.

So it was no surprise yesterday to hear Rowell in upbeat mood. He said: "Today was very enjoyable. A very uplifting and refreshing day, including the attitude of the players. We are just relieved to be together."

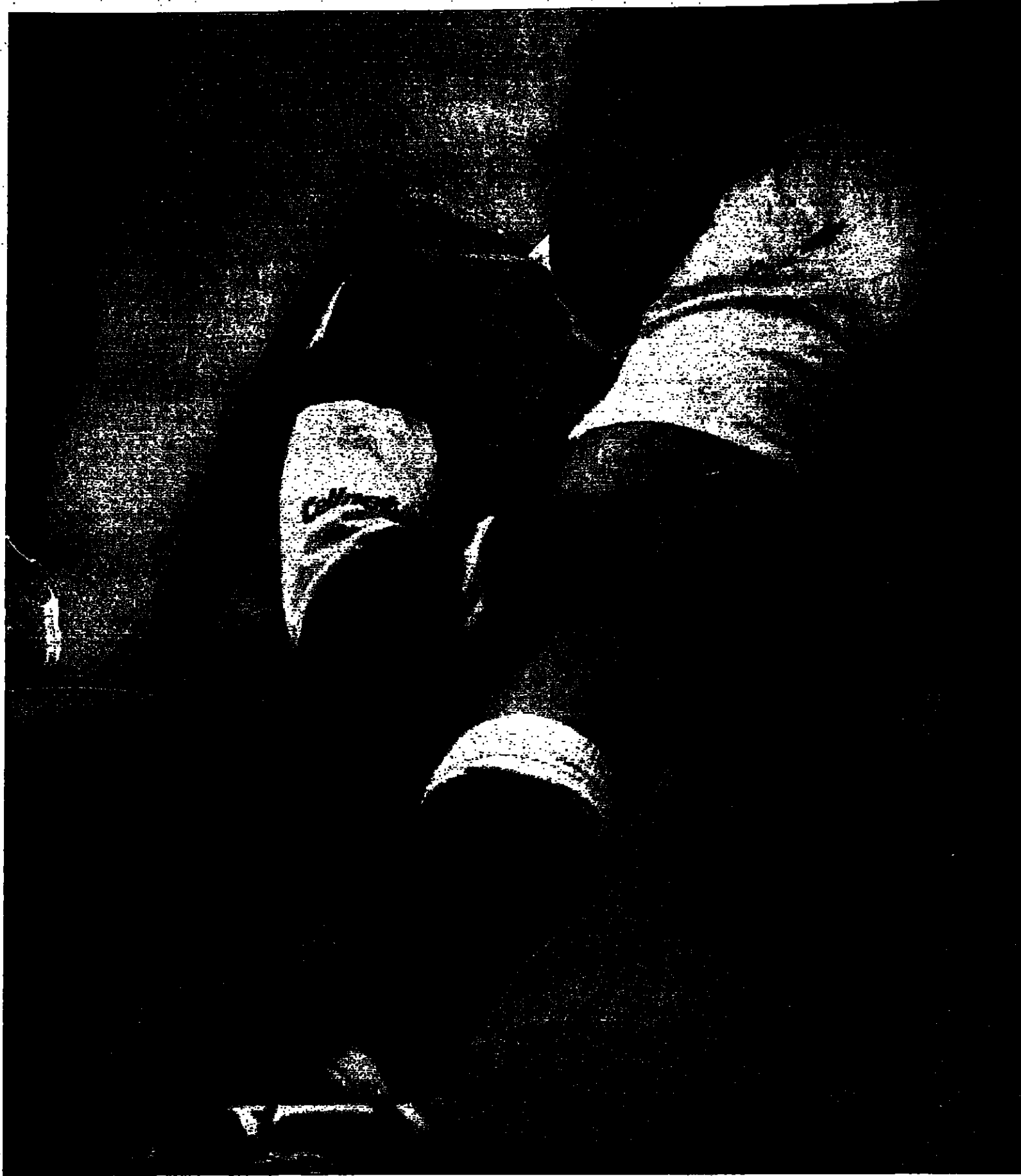
One of the chief reasons for Rowell's happiness was that all 45 players turned up, even the half dozen or so who could not take part because of niggling injuries. These included Carling, who aggravated the Achilles tendon injury he suffered in his final appearance as England captain against Ireland last spring.

"It felt as though it might go at any time," said the Harlequins centre, "but it was great to be back with the squad."

Carling had been overlooked when the two previous squads were named as was Jeremy Guscott his England centre partner. Although Guscott began the 90-minute session, he was one of 15 players who were on the sidelines by the end of the workout. Since Bath have dropped him for the trip to West Hartlepool on Saturday in favour of the rugby league recruit Henry Paul, Guscott should have plenty of time to recover.

Rowell did express a certain amount of anxiety since England's first international against Italy is looming less than two months away on 23 November. Rowell said: "It has become a case of 'catch-up' on training. There is a lot of work to be done in a very short time."

The England coach said he might draft in more players for his next squad get-together on 9 October to ensure he has enough bodies remaining.



Grappling iron: Jeremy Guscott gets to grips with tackling practice at England training yesterday

Photograph: Chris Turvey/Empics

## McAteer asks for patient approach

Football  
RUPERT METCALF

After a night when Aston Villa were unimaginative ambassadors for English football, and Newcastle United failed to impress even though they made progress, Liverpool have the chance tonight to show how to deal with part-time players from Scandinavia.

The Finnish side, MyPa-47, arrived at Anfield to take on the daunting task of trying to overturn a 1-0 deficit from the first leg of this Cup-Winners' Cup first-round tie in Anjalankoski a fortnight ago. The Merseyside fans will no doubt expect a feast of goals, but the Liverpool midfielder, Jason McAteer, warns against excessive expectations.

"There are no easy games in this competition. No team is a pushover any more," McAteer said. "We have to try and get an early goal. That might just put them down in the dumps."

Patrik Berger, the Czech international playmaker, seems certain to retain his place against the Finns after scoring four goals in the space of a week. The Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, has a fully fit 18-man squad to choose from. "We have to be sensible, for this is a tough game and our attitude has got to be right," Evans said. "But we have the bones of the away goal, so we don't have to go chasing the game."

The MyPa-47 coach, Harri Kampman, knows his team face an uphill task. "I believe Liverpool could be as good as Ajax," he said. "They have good, fast players and are well disciplined and well organised."

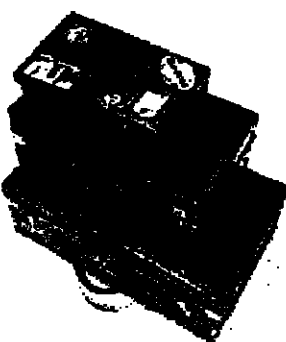
Meanwhile, the Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, was yesterday attempting to pick up the pieces today after his side slid out of the UEFA Cup to Sweden on Tuesday. Villa drew 0-0 at Helsingborgs but went out on the away-goals rule after a 1-1 draw in Birmingham.

"The shame is that we are not going to get an opportunity this season to learn from that and a lot of people will be critical of us after this," Little said. "But, in football and life in general, you need a few hard days to teach you to enjoy the good days. Everyone was down afterwards and we will have spent a few hours wallowing in our disappointment. That teaches you something."

Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, described it as "the worst night I've experienced in terms of Europe since coming to the club 28 years ago." However, he insisted that Little will not suffer the same fate as Ron Atkinson, who was removed by Ellis from the Villa Park manager's job soon after a UEFA Cup defeat to Trabzonspor two years ago. "We have the best manager that I can remember in Brian and I have had seven previous ones," Ellis said.

Unlike Villa, Newcastle had made home advantage pay in the first leg with a 4-0 win over Halmstad, so, despite a 2-1 defeat in Sweden, they reached the second round of the UEFA Cup. "Our attitude was disappointing," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "We didn't do ourselves any favours and we got what we deserved."

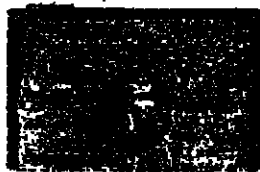
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Cards

## Wallabies name squad

The Australian Rugby Union yesterday named five uncapped players—all forwards—in their 30-man squad for their eight-week tour of Europe.

Australia arrive in Italy on 15 October at the start of a tour which also includes Tests against Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The ARU are still hoping a Test match against England will be added to the British leg so the Wallabies can play their first Grand Slam of matches against the four Home Unions since 1984, when they completed the clean sweep. New Zealand secured the first Grand Slam six years previously.

Australia first suggested 7 December as the date for the England Test, but the Four Home Unions' tour committee rejected that date because it clashed with a match against the Barbarians at Twickenham. The ARU last week suggested either 2 November or 16 November as alternative dates for an England Test, and said they would consider cancelling the Test match against Wales at Cardiff on 1 December if those dates were rejected.

Australia added the Test against Wales to their original tour schedule after a request from Welsh officials. "A Test against England at Twickenham is still a possibility and an announcement is expected in the next few days," a statement released by the ARU said.

The Wallabies' coach, Greg Smith, said the squad would be increased to 32 if the England Test went ahead, with the forwards Tim Gavin and Euan

McKenzie the players that would be added. Gavin and McKenzie were overlooked when selectors announced their squad, which includes the uncapped forwards Andrew Blades, Mark Connors, David Giffin, Tautai Kefu and Brett Robinson. All five featured this year in the inaugural Super 12 tournament for provincial teams from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The first Test of the tour is against Italy in Padova on 23 October, a match that will mark David Campese's 100th appearance in Australia's colours. In June, Campese increased his world record for tries scored in international to 104 by crossing in a one-off Test against Canada in Brisbane.

Orrell are prepared to go to court over their wrangle with Llanelli over the former All Black and Wigan star Franco Botica. Both clubs are claiming rights to the player, who originally agreed to play rugby league for Castleford in the summer Super League and union with Orrell for the next two winters.

Orrell have placed the matter in the hands of their solicitor, with a spokesman, Geoff Lightfoot, saying: "If they get away with this, it will create a precedent that will be very damaging to the game as a whole. It would mean that any contract is not worth the paper it is written on."

Llanelli agreed a £75,000 transfer fee with Castleford for the 33-year-old former Wigan back and paraded him in front of their supporters before their

game against Swansea last Saturday.

Botica, who has now recovered from a hip injury sustained playing for Orrell against Leicester 10 days ago, could find himself chosen for both rival clubs when they name their line-ups for Saturday's fixtures.

Meanwhile, Orrell have appointed another former rugby league player, centre David Lyon, 31, as their captain.

Lyon, a former Great Britain Under-21 full-back, joined the Courage One club in the summer from Leigh after earlier spells with Warrington and St Helens.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD: J. Eales (capt), A. Blades, M. Bui, M. Bui, D. Campese, M. Connors, D. Giffin, M. Giffin, G. Giffin, R. Harty, A. Harty, D. Herbert, T. Horan, P. Howard, T. Kefu, D. Kefu, S. Lush, J. Little, D. Munn, G. Morgan, S. Payne, B. Robinson, J. Smith, R. Tait, R. Tait, J. Wallace, J. Webb, D. Wilson.

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## Newbridge all change

The five-man Newbridge coaching staff yesterday resigned en bloc in the wake of the club's poor start to the Welsh League season.

The coaching co-ordinator Roger Powell, the team manager Keith James, the fitness advisor Alan Rockliffe and the coaches, Mike Gray and Gerry Lewis, all had their resignation accepted by the rugby committee.

"We were prepared to work our two months' notice, but the club felt it would be better if we parted company now," James said. "It is a sad day."

Newbridge are bottom of the Welsh First Division with only one win from six games this

season, and have conceded 197 points in their last three league matches.

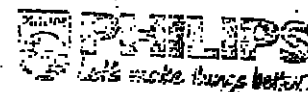
The former Australian prop forward Tony Daly will make his debut for Saracens in Saturday's Courage League game at London Irish. Daly, who scored Australia's winning try against England in the 1991 World Cup final at Twickenham, has been capped 41 times by his country and has recently been playing for Queensland.

Saracens are still without Daly's fellow countryman Michael Lynagh, whose recovery from a shoulder injury is now set to keep him out until after the early-season break.



## FANTASY FOOTBALL

Check your scores every Wednesday and Sunday and watch out for our first transfer period, coming soon



THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



# Barcelona go looking for goals

## Football

The Cup-Winners' Cup, often a consolation for former European champions after a dip in their domestic league fortunes, should see Barcelona, Benfica and PSV Eindhoven as well as Liverpool progress after the first round second legs today.

Barcelona, one of only four sides to have won all three European club competitions, believe they can score more goals away against AEK Larnaca of Cyprus after a 2-0 home win two weeks ago, both scored by Ronaldo.

"We mustn't lose this game. The first goal will be very important. In the first leg, we should have scored four or five goals and I think we'll do that there," Bobby Robson, the Barcelona coach, said.

Barcelona are without their injured Spanish international midfielder Josep Guardiola, striker Juan Pizzi and defender Sergi Barjuan, but the strength in depth of their squad means the absences will hardly be noticed.

Benfica visit Ruch Chorzow of Poland with a 5-1 lead from the first leg, while PSV are level at 1-1 with Dynamo Batumi of Georgia going into their home leg.

Another former European Cup-winning team, Red Star Belgrade, are 1-0 down, but home advantage in front of a crowd expected to be almost 100,000 could help them through against Kaiserslautern.

The Germans, relegated in their cup-winning season, will be looking to their Czech Republic players, Pavel Kuka and Miroslav Kadlec, but the latter is one of several injury doubts for Otto Rehagel, their coach.

The former German international defender Andreas Schmeke stands by in case Kadlec fails a late fitness test. Kaiserslautern are bidding to become the first German Second Division side to reach the second round in European competition.

Nimes look set to become the first French Third Division side to progress beyond the first round in Europe as they defend a 3-1 lead away to Hungary's Kispest Honved.

Honved will need plenty of inspiration against Nimes, but enter the tie in optimistic mood after a 2-1 away win at the weekend when Mihaly Toth, scorer of two of their three goals in the Cup-Winners' Cup this season, hit the winner.

Toth, whose away goal at Nimes may prove useful, plays in what is expected to be an unchanged team.

France have two clubs in the Cup-Winners' Cup with the holders, Paris St-Germain, at home to Vaduz with a 4-0 lead from the first leg.

The Liechtenstein part-timers' only hope of scoring against a PSG side that has yet to concede a goal under Ricardo, their Brazilian manager, this season is if the French side tests a few inexperienced players in a tie virtually sewn up two weeks ago.

The PSG goalkeeper, Bernard Lama, is out injured, while Ricardo may rest Lama's fellow French international Alain Roche and Vincent Guerin.

Florentina are level at 1-1 going into the home leg against Gloria Bistrita of Romania thanks to Gabriel Batistuta's away goal.

Brazil's Luis Barroso Oliveira and the Italian striker Anselmo Robbiati will line up alongside Batistuta, the Argentinian international striker.

The same trio led Florentina to a 2-0 win over Verona on Sunday - their first league victory of the season.

"A three-pronged attack can go well both for home and away games," Claudio Ranieri, the Florentina coach, said.

"But we're cautious - everyone thinks we're already through to the next round and are only talking about our league game next Sunday against Juventus. But the truth is Gloria Bistrita are a dangerous team."

Portugal's Mamel Cesar Rui Costa is expected to play behind the front three, in the role of playmaker.

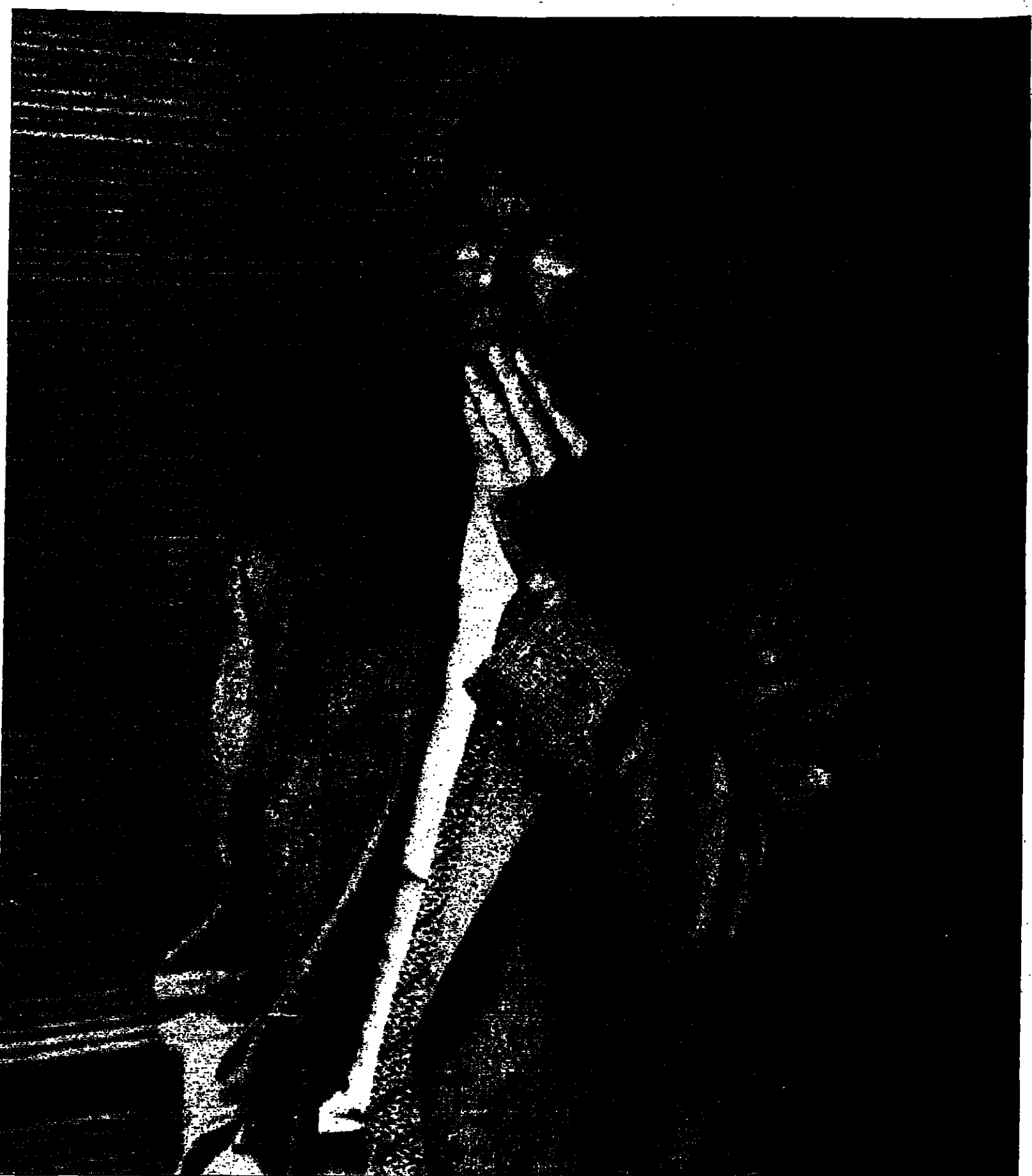
Sparta Prague have two away goals from a first leg 2-2 draw with Sturm Graz of Austria going into the home leg, but their coach, Jozef Chovanec, has warned his team against complacency.

"We have the chance to move to the second round in our hands and we can't let it slip out with a defensive mistake. We can't let down our guard, even for a second," he said.

Chemlon Humenne of Slovakia, playing in Europe for the first time, are 1-0 down against AEK Athens, despite dominating much of the away leg.

"In Athens, we put up a fight and attacked constantly, although we could not get the equaliser. On Thursday we will do the same," their coach, Ondrej Danko, said.

Away goals could also stand Brann Bergen of Norway in good stead as they face Cercle Bruges of Belgium 3-2 down.



Deep in thought: The new Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, sees his side defeated in Cologne last night. Report, page 28; Photograph: Allsport

## SFA unhappy over live coverage of Scotland game

Television officials and football authorities are on a collision course over live coverage of next month's Scotland World Cup game in Latvia.

BBC Scotland have bought rights to show the match live on the afternoon of Saturday, 5 October. But if they go ahead they will incur the wrath of the Scottish football authorities with a Bell's First, Second and Third Division programme planned for the same day.

The Scottish Football Association insist that, under a Uefa

rule, there should be no live transmission of matches on a Saturday afternoon between 1pm and 6pm. The Scottish League also want live coverage blocked.

However, BBC Scotland's Mike Abbott said: "We have bought rights to show the game live via an agent acting for the Latvian FA. We believe it is a game the nation will want to see and we intend to screen it and the fixture against Estonia in Tallinn on the following Wednesday."

"We have done the deal for

the Latvia match and have a Grandstand programme scheduled around it.

"As far as I am concerned, any problem there might be is football's. What about last night when Aston Villa were on live up against Coca-Cola Cup football in England and a First Division game in Scotland?"

"We are into a free market in my view and what can they do to stop us? We bought the rights in good faith so if anyone is in trouble with Uefa it will be the Latvian authorities who sold the rights."

The BBC were heavily criticised for not showing live Scotland's opening World Cup qualifier, a goalless draw with Austria in Vienna in August.

"That was down to budget," Abbott said. "We have always said we will do international matches as and when we can and I can assure you covering games from Latvia and Estonia is not the simplest exercise."

The SFA says it has had no request to screen the Latvia match live and that, if forthcoming, it would be blocked.

The kick-off in Riga against Latvia is 2pm British time with Scottish games due to kick off an hour later at home.

The Scottish League secretary, Peter Donald, said: "It cannot be on live under article 14 of the Uefa rulebook which does not permit screenings on Saturday afternoons."

"There is a full programme in the First, Second and Third Divisions in Scotland that day and it would clearly not be in their interests if the national team were on television in opposition."

## Coventry trio are charged by FA

Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City manager, and his assistant, Gordon Strachan, were yesterday charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute. Liam Daish also faces a similar charge following incidents during the match with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in August.

Atkinson and Strachan were charged after remonstrating from the touchline with officials following a disputed goal, while Daish was sent off by the referee Paul Danson for foul and abusive language during the match, although his charge relates to an incident after the game outside the referee's dressing-room.

Meanwhile, Sunderland were fined £1,000 after fielding a suspended player, Alex Rae, in a reserve match in pre-season.

The FA will decide shortly whether to charge Ian Wright with misconduct after his hair-pulling incident with Sheffield Wednesday's Regi Blinker. The referee, Mike Reed, did not spot the incident but David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, reported Wright to Lancaster Gate.

Chris Coleman's future at Blackburn Rovers has been put in doubt. The Welsh international was dropped in midweek and will find his way back into the side blocked by Henning Berg and Graeme Le Saux.

Ray Harford, the Rovers manager, confirmed he wants to play Berg in his favourite position of centre-back beside Colin Hendry, while Le Saux continued his comeback by playing for the reserves on Tuesday.

Coleman cost £1.7m from Crystal Palace less than a year ago and will not settle for reserve-team football. Billy McKinlay has also been told he can leave Rovers.

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, has not given up hope of bringing the Swedish striker Jesper Blomqvist to Filbert Street. O'Neill has watched the Gothenburg player twice but his chances of signing Blomqvist looked bleak when the player was told he had to see out his contract. However, the 21-year-old becomes a free agent in December and O'Neill said: "I'm keeping a close eye on the situation. I don't want to think it's dead and buried."

Doncaster, bottom of the Nationwide League, were yesterday put up for sale, just two days after another Third Division club, Cambridge, were placed on the market. Their Isle of Man-based controlling company, Dinard Trading, has advertised its 51 per cent shareholding in a national newspaper.

Oldham are ready to sign the Trinidad international Leon Lewis. The striker played a trial game on Tuesday and is available for nothing from the Portuguese team Felgueiras.

## FOOTBALL RESULTS

### YESTERDAY

#### UEFA Cup

##### First round second leg

Manchester City 2-0 Arsenal (1) 2-0; Liverpool 2-0 Bayern Munich (1) 2-0; Borussia Dortmund 2-0 Borussia Mönchengladbach (1) 2-0; PSV Eindhoven 2-0 Feyenoord (1) 2-0; Ruch Chorzow 2-0 Nimes (1) 2-0; Dynamo Batumi 2-0 PSV Eindhoven (1) 2-0; Sturm Graz 2-0 Sparta Prague (1) 2-0; AEK Athens 2-0 Chemlon Humenne (1) 2-0; Cercle Bruges 2-0 Brann Bergen (1) 2-0; Kaiserslautern 2-0 Red Star Belgrade (1) 2-0; Fiorentina 2-0 Gloria Bistrita (1) 2-0; Lazio 2-0 Vaduz (1) 2-0; PSG 2-0 Paris St-Germain (1) 2-0; Barcelona 2-0 AEK Larnaca (1) 2-0.

### TUESDAY

#### UEFA Cup

##### First round second leg

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### English League

#### First round second leg

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### Scottish League

#### First round second leg

Manchester City 2-0 Arsenal (1) 2-0; Liverpool 2-0 Bayern Munich (1) 2-0; Borussia Dortmund 2-0 Borussia Mönchengladbach (1) 2-0; PSV Eindhoven 2-0 Feyenoord (1) 2-0; Ruch Chorzow 2-0 Nimes (1) 2-0; Dynamo Batumi 2-0 PSV Eindhoven (1) 2-0; Sturm Graz 2-0 Sparta Prague (1) 2-0; AEK Athens 2-0 Chemlon Humenne (1) 2-0; Cercle Bruges 2-0 Brann Bergen (1) 2-0; Kaiserslautern 2-0 Red Star Belgrade (1) 2-0; Fiorentina 2-0 Gloria Bistrita (1) 2-0; Lazio 2-0 Vaduz (1) 2-0; PSG 2-0 Paris St-Germain (1) 2-0; Barcelona 2-0 AEK Larnaca (1) 2-0.

### Irish League

#### First round second leg

Manchester City 2-0 Arsenal (1) 2-0; Liverpool 2-0 Bayern Munich (1) 2-0; Borussia Dortmund 2-0 Borussia Mönchengladbach (1) 2-0; PSV Eindhoven 2-0 Feyenoord (1) 2-0; Ruch Chorzow 2-0 Nimes (1) 2-0; Dynamo Batumi 2-0 PSV Eindhoven (1) 2-0; Sturm Graz 2-0 Sparta Prague (1) 2-0; AEK Athens 2-0 Chemlon Humenne (1) 2-0; Cercle Bruges 2-0 Brann Bergen (1) 2-0; Kaiserslautern 2-0 Red Star Belgrade (1) 2-0; Fiorentina 2-0 Gloria Bistrita (1) 2-0; Lazio 2-0 Vaduz (1) 2-0; PSG 2-0 Paris St-Germain (1) 2-0; Barcelona 2-0 AEK Larnaca (1) 2-0.

### Welsh League

#### First round second leg

Manchester City 2-0 Arsenal (1) 2-0; Liverpool 2-0 Bayern Munich (1) 2-0; Borussia Dortmund 2-0 Borussia Mönchengladbach (1) 2-0; PSV Eindhoven 2-0 Feyenoord (1) 2-0; Ruch Chorzow 2-0 Nimes (1) 2-0; Dynamo Batumi 2-0 PSV Eindhoven (1) 2-0; Sturm Graz 2-0 Sparta Prague (1) 2-0; AEK Athens 2-0 Chemlon Humenne (1) 2-0; Cercle Bruges 2-0 Brann Bergen (1) 2-0; Kaiserslautern 2-0 Red Star Belgrade (1) 2-0; Fiorentina 2-0 Gloria Bistrita (1) 2-0; Lazio 2-0 Vaduz (1) 2-0; PSG 2-0 Paris St-Germain (1) 2-0; Barcelona 2-0 AEK Larnaca (1) 2-0.

### Other Football

#### First round second leg

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### Other Sports

#### First round second leg

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### Other Sports

#### First round second leg

Manchester City 2-0 Arsenal (1) 2-0; Liverpool 2-0 Bayern Munich (1) 2-0; Borussia Dortmund 2-0 Borussia Mönchengladbach (1) 2-0; PSV Eindhoven 2-0 Feyenoord (1) 2-0; Ruch Chorzow 2-0 Nimes (1) 2-0; Dynamo Batumi 2-0 PSV Eindhoven (1) 2-0; Sturm Graz 2-0 Sparta Prague (1) 2-0; AEK Athens 2-0 Chemlon Humenne (1) 2-0; Cercle Bruges 2-0 Brann Bergen (1) 2-0; Kaiserslautern 2-0 Red Star Belgrade (1) 2-0; Fiorentina 2-0 Gloria Bistrita (1) 2-0; Lazio 2-0 Vaduz (1) 2-0; PSG 2-0 Paris St-Germain (1) 2-0; Barcelona 2-0 AEK Larnaca (1) 2-0.

On Tuesday 8th October, BT introduce a telephone table everyone will appreciate.

THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER...

Today's Fixtures

Football

English League

First round second leg

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## SPORT

**KEN JONES** on the land of lost content of great athletes  
**DAVID LLEWELLYN** on the secret England rugby union captain

Page 2

Page 2

**UEFA CUP: Borussia Mönchengladbach progress to second round despite impressive fightback from Gunners**



Ian Wright of Arsenal (left) tries to escape the attentions of Borussia Mönchengladbach's Stefan Effenberg during the English side's Uefa Cup defeat in Cologne last night

Photograph: Allsport

# Arsenal denied by Juskowiak

DERRICK WHYTE

Borussia Mönchengladbach 3  
 Arsenal 2  
 Borussia Mönchengladbach  
 win 6-4 on aggregate

Stefan Effenberg and Andrzej Juskowiak stopped Arsenal's comeback bandwagon in its tracks in Cologne last night. But for a magic half-hour in the second half, the Gunners, 3-2 down going into the second leg of their first-round Uefa Cup tie, looked as if they might pull off another revival.

Tony Adams returned to the centre of the Arsenal defence for his first start since two knee

operations and showed all his familiar authority until being substituted after Mönchengladbach's second goal.

However, it had taken a splendid save by the England goalkeeper, David Seaman, to prevent Juskowiak giving Mönchengladbach the lead 10 minutes before he actually did so. Seaman's outstretched leg kept out the shot from Jürgen Petersson's pass, but he had no chance when Effenberg delivered a ball in behind the flat-footed Andy Linighan for Juskowiak.

Up to then, Arsenal had shown only half-glimpses of their striking quality. John Hartson had a shot well saved by Uwe Kamps after Ian Wright

did superbly well to provide a low cross. Wright had mis-kicked when promisingly placed from Hartson's pass just a few minutes earlier, but the striker made no mistake three minutes later when he headed a free-kick from Paul Merson's free-kick for a close-range strike.

It was Wright's 15th goal in 17 European ties and his eighth this season. It gave Arsenal the motivation they needed to look for an unlikely victory.

Unlikely, became possible when, just four minutes into the second half, an impressive array of passes finished with Merson pumping home a cracking 25-yard blast to bring the aggregate scores level.

The goal was built with passes flowing through Linighan, Steve Bould, Patrick Vieira, Wright, Hartson and finally Merson, but in the end it was not enough to unhinge the Germans.

Arsenal had no option now but to go for the third away goal they needed to win on aggregate and, perhaps inevitably, they were caught when Effenberg broke from half-way, waited patiently for Peter Nielsen's pass and with the angle almost impossible for his shot, hit the outside of a post.

But Arsenal's reprieve was only temporary. Three minutes later, Effenberg was picked out perfectly by substitute

Christian Hochstätter, and his shot left Seaman stranded.

Arsenal could still have taken a third goal at the other end after Adams was replaced by Ray Parlour, but the substitute's low, raking cross from the right somehow eluded Hartson five yards from the far post. Arsenal also appealed for a penalty when Vieira went tumbling over Hochstätter's challenge. The German was booked, but a free-kick given just outside the box.

With seconds left, Effenberg went for the kill, sending Martin Schneider racing away down the left and pulling the ball back for Juskowiak to complete a double that warns England of his impending arrival at Wem-

bley for the World Cup qualifier next month.

Arsenal really lost this tie in the home leg at Highbury two weeks ago, and their new manager, Arsène Wenger, may have to work on their traditional strength in defence rather than their attack, which has been bursting with goals this season.

"Today we saw just how important Stefan Effenberg is for us," Bernd Krauss, the Mönchengladbach coach, said. "Arsenal never gave up and when we went 2-1 behind, I thought it was going to be very tight."

"It was hard going," Effenberg said. "Arsenal played much better than they did in England but if you take both ties to-

gether, I think we deserve to go through."

Borussia Mönchengladbach: Kamps; Anderson, Neun, Juskowiak, Effenberg, Schneider, Nielsen (Wynne), 74, Poddig, Lünken, 61, 62. Substitutes not used: Kastermann, Kaspermann (64).

Arsenal: Seaman; Kamps, Adams (Hick), 78, Linighan (Parlour), 64, Bould, Wiersma, Platt, Vieira, Merson, Wright, Hartson. Substitutes not used: Pott, Shaw, Luke (54).

Referee: A Lopez Nieto (Sp).

Results, page 27

## Ferguson on sidelines after knee operation

Duncan Ferguson is facing up to six weeks on the sidelines after surgery on a knee injury.

The Scotland striker's absence is a serious blow for his Everton manager, Joe Royle, who is attempting to pull his side away from the foot of the Premiership table. Ferguson's injury is also bad news for the Scotland coach, Craig Brown, as the 24-year-old striker could also miss three World Cup qualifiers.

Ferguson is now ruled out of the games in Latvia and Estonia on 5 and 9 October, and could be struggling to make the home match with Sweden on 10 November.

Ferguson played outstanding football in the first two games of the Premiership, against Newcastle on the opening day and against Manchester United four days later when he netted twice.

However, he has been struggling for a few weeks with the knee and on Tuesday went into hospital for exploratory surgery. A cartilage operation followed.

Among the Premiership games he will miss is the Merseyside derby on 20 October at Anfield. Ferguson would have missed the next couple of matches, though, after being sent off against Blackburn Rovers last Saturday.

Royle might now be forced into looking for a replacement

as Everton attempt to end a run of eight games without a win when they play Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday, Wimbledon's unsettled striker Dean Holdsworth, rated at £4m, is understood to be the top target.

Royle is desperately seeking a victory on Saturday to try and appease the fans after the Coca-Cola Cup defeat by Second Division York on Tuesday night. But he insisted: "This is no time to panic. We do need some new faces and we are constantly asking about players who I know would improve us."

"But the players I want are not available at the moment. I am not going to give false hope of making a signing today or tomorrow. It is a question of waiting. The players are very low. They are frustrated and know they are letting themselves and the supporters down at the moment."

"But I am confident in the players that we have here and that things will come round. We have had two seasons of immense progress and that does not suddenly turn into a situation of panic. We need everyone to stand up and be counted but at the moment one or two are going missing."

Royle added: "The game against York should have been out of sight at Goodison Park. It should have been academic

but it wasn't. Overall we got a hiding. I was very disappointed. Certainly going out of the cup at this stage wasn't in the script as far as I was concerned."

Glenn Hoddle is set to reap the benefit of England's Euro 96 heroics when England meet Poland in a World Cup qualifier next month.

Wembley is on the way to becoming a 76,000 sell-out for the 9 October game, with more than half the tickets already snapped up by fans wanting to see Hoddle's first game at the twin towers since he was installed as Terry Venables' coaching successor.

"We haven't seen interest like this for a very long time," a Wembley spokesman said.

Wembley expect another rush for tickets today when Hoddle names his squad for a meeting with opponents who have stood between England and World Cup success on many occasions down the years.

The stadium spokesman added: "There is always an increase in demand for tickets after squads are announced, so we would advise people to book now to avoid disappointment."

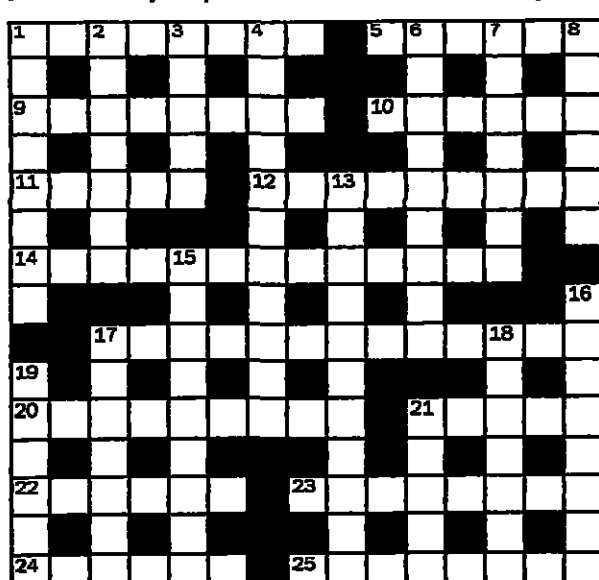
Hoddle's men kicked off their Group Two campaign with a 3-0 win in Moldova earlier this month as they look to book their place in the 1998 finals in France.

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3102, Thursday 26 September

By Moss

Wednesday's solution



## ACROSS

- 1 Bird near tug on lake (5-3)
- 5 Cast for fish (retaining record in retrospect) (6)
- 9 Jail? One figure getting time is rueful (8)
- 10 Little lady, free and showy (6)
- 11 Stout gets you high? (5)
- 12 Senseless holding a degree in patois (9)
- 14 Like a couple of goodies? (4-9)
- 17 Moving back Queen. I got reverses into play (13)
- 20 Padding around a cell? (9)

## DOWN

- 21 Fires with sound of instrument (5)
- 22 Midge's kicked around in unprofessional play (6)
- 23 Animal stopping short without oxygen (8)
- 24 Bear, not a ram (6)
- 25 A newfangled barrel containing nothing of oak, etc. (8)
- 1 Language of borders in NE Spain (8)
- 2 Prevailing, Grant reduced Lee at war (7)
- 3 Staple clipped tab to make secure (5)
- 4 A goal, of course! (7-4)
- 6 Hot? Loom fan's working in phases (4-5)

- 7 Greek character charges for copies (7)
- 8 Gather leader's absorbed his writer? (6)
- 13 Rendering's his job, and working with gloss? (11)
- 15 Settle score with figure - crushing English total, we hear (9)
- 16 Right note in disciplinary individual (8)
- 17 Point of drill caught in recess (7)
- 18 Show preference for bank (7)
- 19 Swell badly flooding part of boat (6)
- 21 Burst of applause from five in short Exhibition (5)

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